Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israel

"Three people suspected of having carried out hostile terrorist activity" were apprehended in Jibshit, Lebanon, and brought to Israel in "a routine operation against terrorism in Lebanon which is not related to the POW and MIA issue," according to an IDF statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Israeli scientists sold cruise missile technology to the PRC, according to a Chinese scientist whose remarks in the United States were quoted by HA'ARETZ.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli negotiators held a news conference upon returning home, Tel Aviv radio reported. In Washington, the chief Jordanian negotiator disagreed with charges that the talks are at a "deadlock," in remarks broadcast by Amman television.

Egypt

The Egyptian foreign minister turned down an official request to visit Israel, citing lack of progress in the peace process, AL-BAYAN affirmed. The Israeli religious affairs minister continued his visit, conferring with Butrus Ghali, MENA reported. Jerusalem television said Ghali asked Israel to release another 220 prisoners in exchange for further information on Israeli MIA's.

Iraq

Saddam Husayn decorated several named officers for their performance during the "chapter of treason in the Mother of Battles," AL-THAWRAH reported. The clandestine Voice of the People of Kurdistan said there were antigovernment demonstrations in two Baghdad neighborhoods.

Jordan

King Husayn's address to Command and Staff College graduates was broadcast by Amman radio. The radio also reported on a visit by France's Roland Dumas. The Council of Arab Economic Unity, denying an earlier report in the newspaper AL-RA'Y, told the JORDAN TIMES that the group had not called for an end to the UN embargo against Iraq; the Council had only asked the Arab world to help Iraq, it said.

Syria

A Paris radio correspondent speculated on Damascus' reasons for postponing a visit by France's Dumas.

Libya

JANA's political editor wrote about the people's continuing insistence to meet with al-Qadhdhafi, "in spite of instructions to remain in their places," to express their desire for a total Western boycott and reorientation toward the South and East as partners for cooperation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Libyan envoy to the Arab League and League chief 'Abd-al-Majid discussed developments relating to Lockerbie, MENA reported.

Iran

The president's Friday prayer sermon on the Dakar summit and Iraq was broadcast by Tehran radio, which also reported a joint statement at the end of the visit by the Russian vice president.

Pakistan

The president's remarks to Parliament were reported by Islamabad radio, which noted a demonstration and walkout by opposition members. The walkout led to the firing of teargas outside Parliament, the radio continued. The country will recognize Russia and five Central Asian states, a foreign affairs official told the radio, which also reported the arrival of the Russian vice president from Iran.

Afghanistan

Four surface-to-surface missiles were fired at neighborhoods in the capital, Kabul radio reported, adding that elsewhere government forces destroyed a Stinger unit.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Delegation Briefs Media Upon Return

TA1912165591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[News conference by Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu; Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the team negotiating with Syria; Yosi Hadas, Foreign Ministry director general and head of the team negotiating with Lebanon; and Uri Lubrani, associate chairman of the team negotiating with Lebanon, with foreign and domestic reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport upon returning from Washington—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Netanyahu] ...the peace talks with Israel. They expected to bend Israel, to force terms on it, either through the U.S. Administration or through media and public relations pressure, but that hope proved false. On the other hand, we began the talks with the three delegations within the instructions we received from the prime minister and the Israeli Government.

The Arabs are finding that this is the path of the future. If anything has come out of the talks—and I believe something has—it is an initial framework for the continuation of the talks. I hope that the continuation of the talks will be more businesslike, without restraints, without the type of obstacles we faced. Should we face those obstacles, however, we will know how to deal with them, just as we did here. I would like to give the microphone to my colleague Yosi Ben-Aharon, and then to Uri Lubrani and Yosef Hadas, who will say a few words.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening. It is good to be back home. We were in Washington for about 10 days. I dealt with an effort to break the ice with the Syrian delegation. The main thing that can be said is that we are talking with the Syrians. Beyond that, the process will have to be long and arduous, because the Syrians must still go through the not insignificant stages of acknowledging the new reality that Israel exists—which is still hard for them to digest—and then coming to a readiness to talk to us on an equal footing in order to try to see if we can reach some sort of understanding and agreement that will end in the signing of a peace treaty. Thank you.

[Hadas] Good evening. I speak for myself and Uri Lubrani when I say it is good to be home. In the talks with the Lebanese delegation, unlike the discussions with the other delegations, we immediately had a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere, and we began to define the pragmatic position of each side. The gap between us remains, but there is an effort by both sides to close it, as has been said, so that when we reconvene we will begin to discuss practical issues. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] [words indistinct] Can you confirm those reports, and what is your reaction, after your talks with Syria, to the possibility that he may be held there?

[Lubrani, in English] We haven't heard anything from the Syrians about it, as far as I know, but he may want to say something about that. I cannot confirm any new information about Ron Arad. We hope that we shall eventually know, at the end of all this; we hope—no, more than hope. We haven't heard anything that I can confirm to be new about the issue.

[Jack Katzenell of Qol Yisra'el radio, in English] Mr. Lubrani, hasn't the worst scenario happened—namely, that the Western hostages have been released after Israel made all the gestures and all the concessions and released people, and Ron Arad—the Israeli POW—and the MIAs, have been forgotten and they are already off the headlines?

[Lubrani, in English] The fact is that we haven't had any new information about Ron Arad. This is a fact, but what you said about gestures—yes, we have made gestures, but anybody who has been following what has evolved has seen that both the United States has made gestures—indirect—and also the United Nations. So you have to see it in perspective, and as you know, we have been told by the UN secretary general that he is going to continue in his efforts to try to determine the fate of Ron Arad, and bring him back home to us.

[Katzenell, in English] [words indistinct] we in Israel should state and agree to these releases while the Israeli prisoners were not part of the package?

[Lubrani, in English] God only knows if we have made a mistake—maybe; we did whatever we can to do that. Many people were involved in that. We don't know the results yet. We have to hope.

[Unidentified reporter, in English] [Words indistinct] of CBS. Mr. Netanyahu, will the delegation return to Washington, and if so, at what point would Israel put its foot down and say: No more Washington, or at least, just anywhere else in the Middle East?

[Netanyahu, in English] We haven't agreed on a venue. The Arabs refused to really seriously engage in negotiations on that. We have a start. I hope that at least the partial contacts, direct contacts, we had will enable us to fix bilaterally a time, a place rather, with one of the delegations, perhaps [words indistinct]. That is one of the things we are going to negotiate. Our preference for coming into the region, the biggest preference, of course, within the countries of the region, has not abated.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Netanyahu] Israel has already put its foot down whenever it felt it had to, and it will continue to reserve that option, but we are in the midst of negotiations right now, not a series of ultimatums.

[Ge'ula Even of IDF Radio] At the end of the second round of talks, are there significant achievements to which you can point?

[Netanyahu] Which delegation are you asking about?

[Even] The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, because Elyaqim Rubinstein is absent.

[Netanyahu] I believe the significant achievement, as you say, is the fact that those talks are going according to the rules of the game—if one can use that term—that were agreed upon beforehand; in other words, within a joint Palestinian-Jordanian framework. Israel insists on that, and the attempt by the Arab side to divide the talks did not succeed. Their attempt to use that issue to blow up the talks, or to threaten to blow them up, also failed. I must say that the fact that our delegation, or more correctly, our representative, Elyaqim Rubinstein, and the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, talked for many hours—I believe for over 30 hours—brought about some sort of direct, human contact has a value for all negotiations for the future. We must recall that beyond the opposing positions and the attempt to bridge those positions, we are talking about people. There is no doubt that a connection was made that we will be able to use in the future when the Arabs finally understand, as I believe they will, that they have no choice but to talk to us according to the agreed upon rules. I would not, therefore, view those days as a waste, but as an investment in the future.

[Unidentified reporter, in English] [Words indistinct] of ABC. I would like to ask each of you what you think you have achieved [words indistinct].

[Lubrani, in English] It is in my perception, this session was by way of getting to know you, and we have come to grips with the problems which our Lebanese counterparts have been expounding. We have told them our view. They have told us their position. We haven't reached an agreement. Every party has been sticking to its own plans, but we have come to know each other, and we hope that this is a basis for further discussions.

Al-Majali, 'Abd-al-Shafi on Next Round

JN1912194491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, cochairmen of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by 'Abdallah al-'Utum in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-'Utum] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, you have spent 30 hours talking in corridors. Please assess what has taken place there between you and the Israelis.

[Al-Majali] During these talks, which lasted five days, mornings and evenings, the corridor meetings were held between Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Mr. Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, to discuss procedural issues for this second phase of negotiations, which is the bilateral talks phase. However, there are many people who make mistakes when they say that talks in the corridor are something abnormal. I found that talks in a corridor, in front of people's eyes, is much, much better than talking behind closed doors, particularly taking into consideration the informal status of the situation. We talked about the crux of the issue. The issue is not a procedural one. It was one that hits the essence of the issue; namely that we have come here on the firm bases on which we were invited to Washington at this phase to hold talks; the Jordanians in the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the Palestinian brothers in the Palestinian-Israeli track.

[Al-'Utum] There has been much talk about the issue of the U.S. Administration's interference in negotiations. Have you asked the U.S. Administration to interfere in them?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have not officially requested this interference. The U.S. Administration, however, kept abreast of the talks in detail. As it seemed to us, however, the U.S. Administration preferred to give more time to the talks between the two sides, and therefore, it has thus far not interfered. It is clear, however, that we have reached an impasse regarding the Israeli side's refusal to recognize the agreed-upon bases which were clear in the letter of invitation. I believe that time is now ripe for the U.S. Administration's interference to help find a way past this impasse.

[Al-'Utum] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, the negotiations have reached a deadlock. What is your assessment?

[Al-Majali] I do not agree with those who describe it as a deadlock. As you know, the road to peace is long, and full of thorns and obstacles. The existence of an obstacle from time to time is something normal, and we should try to remove this obstacle through patience, not by losing hope that peace will vanish in the face of this obstacle. Therefore, we are determined to pursue peace. We are also strongly determined not to deviate from our genuine constants, which are the rights of our people that are embodied by their demands and rights, also the Palestinian people's rights and demands, and the fact that we support them and that we will not and will never negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I share brother 'Abd-al-Salam's views, because we do not consider [changes thought]... It is true that there is an impasse about which I spoke, but we are still committed to what we have been committed to from the very beginning: namely, the issue of serious and sincere efforts to achieve a just peace in the region. This is our declared position to which we adhere. As I said, we hope to find a way out of this impasse to resume the negotiations. We also hope to achieve the objectives for the sake of which we have come here.

[Al-'Utum] There is a new date to resume negotiations in Washington, which is 7 January, and there is another date for the Syrians, which is the 13th, as I believe. What is your opinion of these dates?

[Al-Majali] The truth is that we, even on the level of Arab coordination, had the general feeling that 7 January is an appropriate date. It was a coincidence that the Israeli delegation gave the same offer. Therefore, there was an agreement on this point, at least, to have the

meeting on 7 January. As I believe, it will be in Washington, especially since we also insist on Washington, and that Washington is the best place for negotiations because it is closer to the sponsor [preceding word in English]; therefore, they can yield the right results.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, Libyan Envoy Discuss Lockerbie

NC1912110191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, met today with Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, the Libyan Jamahiriyah's envoy to the Arab League.

Following the meeting, Dr. al-Turayki said that he reviewed with the secretary general the latest developments in the case of the U.S. and British accusations against Libya that two Libyan citizens were responsible for bombing a U.S. civilian airliner in 1988. He added that the meeting is part of the constant consultations between Libya and the Arab League, because the Arab League council that met at the permanent envoys' level has asked the secretary general to continue his contacts with all the parties in order to contain the situation. He noted that the league council is in permanent session.

Implications of UN Zionism Act Repeal Noted

PM1912142691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 91 p 17

[Editorial: "The UN Vote and the Test of Reality"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly's repeal of its resolution equating Zionism with racism was not exactly a precedent, but it was close to it. Only once before has the UN revoked any of its resolutions.

The repeal was, of course, a diplomatic victory for Israel brought on by the current international changes, but apart from point scoring, what does that victory mean in reality?

Lawrence Eagleburger, U.S. deputy secretary of state, who submitted the repeal motion, used two arguments. The first was that the old resolution was a product of the cold war, which has ended, and the second was that the resolution branded the "ethnic and national aspirations" of the Jews as racist.

By the same token, we could point out the following:

1. Many UN resolutions and measures have gone unheeded or have fallen on deaf ears, because even before 1975, the year the resolution was passed, disregard for the United Nations and international legitimacy was Israel's official policy.

2. Racist practices do not have to be advertised or publicized and do not require resolutions issued by legally recognized organizations. In Europe and the United States today there are individuals and parties who promote racism with such sinister spite, but they quake like wounded wolves when openly described as racists. In short, racism is an idea and a practice and does not require any clamor or beating of drums. So the resolution as such does not at all change the truth about Israel.

3. Some international parties found it difficult in the past to put pressure on Israel, because whenever Israel was given advice, it would shed crocodile tears and accuse the West of ignoring its security requirements in the face of an Arab enemy that did not recognize its existence and which branded its national right to survive as a kind of racism. Perhaps the current U.S. Administration, as sponsor of the Middle East peace conference, deemed it wise to pull the rug of pretexts and excuses from under Israel's feet and to do it a service in return for Israel's abandoning intransigence and procrastination. The Arab, and especially Palestinian, knowledge of Israel does not encourage optimism that this will happen, because, given an inch, it would want a mile. Generosity to it only makes it more rebellious.

4. Israel must respond in practice to that resolution. Its response must be either complete adherence to international legitimacy and the implementation of all UN resolutions on the Middle East, or proof, given openly to the world, that it is not a racist state and does not act as one in the occupied territories that it controls militarily by coercion and repression—this, by acknowleding the right of self-determination of the people of the occupied territories and their right to an independent state under the legitimate Palestinian leadership. The peoples of Estonia, Croatia, Moldavia, and the Jews of Israel are no more deserving of an independent state than the Palestinian Arabs, if the world has really decided to bury what is left of the "cold war."

Arab League Denies Somaliland Requests Membership

PM1812164491 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Dec 91 p 1

[Ahmad Rajab report: "In Exclusive Statement To 'UKAZ, Arab League Denies 'Abd-al-Majid Met With 'Abd-al-Rahman"]

[Text] Cairo—In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ, Tal'at Hamid, official spokesman for the Arab League General Secretariat, denied the reports in some newspapers the day before yesterday that 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, president of the so-called "Republic of Somaliland," in northern Somalia, had asked to join the Arab League. He also denied that he could have met, or will be meeting, with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He said that the Arab League still considers Somalia a single country.

'Abd-al-Majid Urges Halt to Fighting

NC1912155691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Following a meeting of the Somalia Committee of the Arab League Secretariat, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the committee emphasizes its deep concern for the unity of Somalia.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the committee appealed to the brothers in Somalia to halt the current fighting which exposes the country's security and unity to destruction.

The committee urged the Somali parties to secure all favorable conditions to enable relief supplies of food and medicine to reach wounded women, children, and the elderly.

The committee entrusted Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid with taking all measures to tackle the situation in Somalia, whether by consulting the countries concerned or by contacting the parties to the conflict in Somalia.

Palestinian Affairs

Criticism of Zionism-Racism Act Revocation Voiced

PFLP—U.S. 'Completely Biased'

JN1912200991 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Commenting on the UN General Assembly's vote to repeal Resolution 3379 of 1975, which deemed Zionism a racist movement, a spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has made the following statement:

The repeal of this resolution is a new blow to the UN role and represents a serious precedence in its history. This is a blatant example of the nature of the new world order controlled by the United States. This shows that the United States is not neutral in the conflict; in fact, this shows that it is completely biased toward the Zionist entity.

The spokesman condemned some Arab countries' approval of the new resolution. He said that this is a new blow to the pan-Arab and national Palestinian struggle.

The spokesman said that the UN resolution repealing Resolution 3379 is considered a U.S. reward to Israel. It encourages Israel to continue its aggressive policy which refuses to abide by international legitimacy and all peace calls for recognizing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

PNSF Deplores UN 'Trend'

JN1912201991 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Regarding the UN General Assembly's repeal of Resolution 3379 issued in 1975 equating Zionism with racism, a spokesman for the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] has stated the following:

The UN General Assembly's resolution repealing Resolution 3379 constitutes a clear legal violation, because the reasons for which the resolution was adopted have continued as affirmed by many resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and many international committees, missions, and organizations. The repeal also constitutes a violation of the UN Charter and the international law principles.

The conditions of the issuance of the new resolution entail the signs of a serious development in the UN trend and the performance of its tasks. This situation will place it under U.S. tutelage in a manner contrary to the tasks for which it was established. This development constitutes a serious initiative toward most of the resolutions issued by the United Nations in the interest of the oppressed nations which struggle against injustice, racism, and racial discrimination. The international body will, thereby, lose its credibility vis-a-vis the issues of freedom and human rights.

The PNSF spokesman added: The U.S. role in this regard—at a time when the United States claims its concern for human rights and for implementing international charters in dealing with the international issues and in placing itself a sponsor for the Middle East peace conference—affirms the noncredibility of the U.S. Administration in its proposals, trends, and international policy. This U.S. role, which encourages the Zionist entity to continue its racist practices and to continue its rejection of the UN resolutions related to the Arab-Zionist conflict, exposes the lie of America- Zionist differences, and affirms the U.S. Administration's adherence to its policy that supports the Zionist enemy's aggressive and expansionist trends and ambitions.

The PNSF spokesman said: We condemn this resolution and warn our Arab nation, and all states of the world, of the seriousness of the new UN trend and era. We affirm our clear condemnation of the stand of the Arab countries which supported the new resolution and which abstained from voting against it, thereby registering a stand that is contrary to their pan-Arab and international commitments. We call on all national Arab forces, organizations, and institutions to shoulder their responsibilities to expose and resist the dangers of the dimensions of these countries' stands in their subservience to the American and Zionist policy, which is hostile to the rights, interests, and future of the Arab nation until everybody becomes aware that the United States is a partner to the Zionist entity in the aggression against the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, and in its aggression and expansion. Despite the repeal of the resolution, Zionism and its embodied entity, Israel, will remain the most racist movement and state in the present international community.

[Signed] The PNSF

Hamas on 'Despotic' World Order

JN1912074191 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas in Palestine has issued a statement on the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. The statement dismisses the move as part of the colonialist international alliance against our cause and nation and an implementation of the conspiracies hatched in Tel Aviv, Washington, and all Western capitals hostile to our nation.

The statement says the repeal is in harmony with the inclinations of the new despotic world order, which subjects world nations to a hegemony directed against our man, freedom, and dignity, and which imposes humiliating conditions and acknowledges Zionism as an unobjectionable political and social theory.

The statement denounces and condemns the position taken by the Arab countries that abstained from voting on the new resolution. While announcing this, the statement goes on to say, we reflect the conscience of our Muslim Palestinian people and our mujahid nation. We say strongly and loudly: No to the unjust resolutions against our people; no to the policy of relinquishment and concessions; yes to solidarity to confront all conspiracies; and yes to jihad against Zionism as the only way to liberate Palestine.

Repeal, 'Jihad' Omission Compared

LD1912225191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since the removal—at the Dakar [Islamic] summit conference—of the word "jihad" from the dictionary of the struggle against Zionism, the recent UN resolution annulling its resolution equating racism with Zionism was not surprising. Indeed it became clear that insisting on annulling the word "jihad" at the Dakar conference was decided in advance as a prelude and a preparation to the resolution which the United States had been preparing for approval at the United Nations.

It is wrong to look, as of today, at the United Nations or the Islamic Conference [Organization] or the Arab League with the same view which used to be held before the Gulf crisis. All these international and regional institutions have been transformed into agencies subservient to the U.S. Administration and to Congress and the State Department in Washington. What gives rise to concern is to continue to see these institutions as they used to be seen in the past or to build hopes on them on the basis of their previous functions as institutions of international legitimacy, Arab solidarity, Islamic brotherhood. International legitimacy is not the same as it was before. Arab solidarity is not the same as before. As for Islamic brotherhood, this was killed at the Dakar conference. The greatest fear comes from the possibility that the United Nations might start to have another look at its resolutions concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. For there might in the future be someone who comes along and calls for abolishing Resolution 181 concerning the partition of Palestine because that resolution calls for the existence of a Palestinian state, or for abolishing Resolution 194 because it calls for the return of the refugees, or for abolishing resolution 242 which mentions the word "withdrawal."

Everything is possible in a map of a world in which the Arabs have lost most of the fundamentals of power and presence to an extent that division is their character and strife and quarreling are part of their nature. No one except the Arabs are guilty in the question of striking off the word "jihad" from the dictionary of the Dakar Islamic conference. No one other than the Arabs are guilty of cancelling the resolution which equates Zionism with racism. We are the guilty ones. If the Arab countries are living again through their regrettable and sad reality the history of the sick man of the Ottoman Empire, there is nothing more befitting than to return to the slogans of our forefathers which called for freedom, independence and unity. This is safer than to live in the shadow of feeling injustice and persecution or to continue to cling to the false sentiments about our existence generally as an independent, free, and sovereign nation.

We were not free in Dakar when we cancelled our legitimate right to jihad to recover the soil and the sacred shrines. We were not free in New York now that the enemy has succeeded in establishing that everything he practices on us in the form of racism and persecution is lawful and an undisputed right.

VOP on 'Bleak, Uncertain' Times

LD1912171791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Brothers, what a farce. Henceforth, Israel has become nonracist following a decision by the United States which was adopted by the UN General Assembly and the very states which a few years ago issued a resolution stating that Zionism is a racist movement based on (paganism)?, bias, and religious bigotry that make the Jews God's chosen people.

Since these moments, there is material evidence that the United States endorses the principles and behaves in complete contradiction regarding these principles. It has behaved in this way on several occasions, particularly during the current U.S. Administration. It calls for democracy yet supports and backs dictatorships and recovers its grip through the power of arms. The United States seeks human rights and rights of peoples, and launches a third world war to rescue one people only to destroy peoples; it invades one country to judge one person ; it threatens one society and one state to take away those accused, and against whom it wished to level accusations four or five years later.

Since these moments, it has been established that the new world order is based on something worse in that it

cannot be compared even with the determination of the U.S. Administration. It is founded on injustice, tyranny, the spread of dictatorships, and a single regime that rules the world. It would not be a contrafiction to see the collapse of the ruling one-party system in the Soviet Union, which is a superpower, only to be replaced by a ruling single system in the world as represented by the United States; in the meantime, lies are being circulated which claim that what is happening is done in the name of democracy and human rights.

Since these moments, it has become clear that justice, thanks to the U.S. Administration, is not a master of values and that international legitimacy is made up of numerous legalities, and that it is not one legitimacy; that what ditinguishes one legitimacy from another legality is the logic of force , might, and robbery, not the logic of justice that is based on ethical law, discipline, human rights, and the rights of peoples.

What has happened at the United Nations is a scandal that cannot be put right. Its echoes will reverberate for years and centuries to become a blot of shame which will haunt this U.S. Administration that has channeled all its capability toward exerting pressure and theft so that the UN General Assembly would wipe out what its members themselves decided 15 years ago, despite the fact that not a single cause which warranted this decision has changed.

We are aware that political issues are concluded behind the scenes, big decisions are hammered out within lobbies away from people's eyes; however, we cannot understand how some states could go back on resolutions which they had endorsed out of full conviction, for instance the resolution which states that Zionism is a racist movement. This could have been achieved under threat and warning, or under temptation and inducement. This is a regrettable as well as bewildering matter and does not predict a new world capable of a long life and development. What is required is that the world which replaces a world of conflict and cold war should be a world of real detente for whom all constituents of detente are provided, and in which the reasons and good seeds of this detente grow.

However, what is taking place is a flagrant contradiction which reveals that what is underneath the detente is an unprecedented intellectual and material rottenness, decay, injustice, betrayal, and terrorism. It is a black moment in the history of the United Nations, which should look into the reasons why Israel has called for abolishing the causes for which Zionism was condemned as a racist movement. They are causes which are being practiced by Israel in a more heinous way than it used to 16 years ago. It treats the Palestinians inside their homeland in a clearly racist way; it terrorizes them; it confiscates their land; it steals their houses; it kills them; it pillages them; it is doing everything that would qualify it to be more successful in practicing racism. What then has changed?

The international community has not changed; the causes that make Israel a racist entity have not changed. What has changed is that the United States wanted that Israel should not have been racist, yet it was. What has changed is that the guardian of the new world order is establishing its order on the worst concepts in the history of mankind: on pressure, terrorism, robbery, double standards, on defending fallen thrones and on dragging the world toward a bleak and uncertain future.

Spokesman—Peace Talks To Resume in Switzerland

LD1912163091 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] From Tunis: PLO official spokesman Nabil al-Shar' said today that the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which were suspended yesterday in Washington, will resume in Switzerland, without specifying a date. The Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli delegations said yesterday in Washington that they have been invited to resume the talks on 7 January, provided that the place will be determined later.

AL-QUDS on 'Crisis' in Talks

TA1812172091 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Dec 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Disagreement More Than Procedural"]

[Text] Prior to entering into the Palestinian-Israeli talks over the transitional stage—self-rule in the occupied territories—Israel clearly stated its refusal to apply "self-rule" to the land, confining it only to the population. In other words, control over the land will remain in Israel's hands with all that this implies. Israel also ruled out the possibility that Israeli settlements would be under any self-rule authority. In addition, Israel has insisted on minimizing the role of the Palestinian side in the talks about the Palestinian problem, which it also considers a marginal issue in the peace negotiations. Hence, the current disagreement between Israel and the Jordanian and Palestinian sides over the form of negotiations goes beyond procedural issues and is related to the core of the disagreement with Israel over the position of the Palestinian problem in the conflict and the status of the Palestinian people in the peace process.

Israel clearly states that it is seeking a peace that will ensure its permanent control over the occupied territories and prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their legitimate national rights, including self-determination. Therefore, it sees in "self-rule," according to its understanding, the final settlement of the Palestinian problem. Moreover, Israel is seeking a peace that will ensure the normalization of its relations with the Arab states on the basis of separate peace agreements. These are the very reasons for Israel's insistence on not dealing with the Palestinian side on an equal footing with the other sides participating in the peace process.

The Palestinian side agreed to the establishment of "self-rule" in the occupied territories during a transitional phase to be followed by discussions over a final settlement for the occupied territories, including the issue of Jerusalem, on the basis of the transitional phase being the prelude to the end of Israeli occupation and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which applies to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 as it does to the occupied Arab lands. Consequently, the transitional phase, as understood by the Palestinian side, will be a prelude to the establishment of a Palestinian state that can determine the nature of its relations with neighboring countries, especially Jordan, in conformity with the Palestinian people's supreme national interests and stemming from various historic, geographic, political, and economic considerations.

The obvious contradiction between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the entire peace process and its final goals, as well as on the transitional phase, constitutes the real cause of the current disagreement over the nature of the Palestinian role in the peace process and the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation into two delegations that will negotiate with Israel on two tracks.

The one-room or two-rooms crisis, as well as the corridor discussions preceding the negotiations, which have yet to begin, is in fact the crisis of the obvious contradiction between the Israeli position on the peace process on the one hand and the Jordanian- Palestinian position on the other. How this disagreement is resolved—if a solution is reached at all—will determine the nature of delving into substantive issues in the peace process, including the transitional phase in the occupied territories and the Palestinian role in defining the outlines of this phase.

We believe that this contradiction cannot be resolved without active international intervention that can sway Israel into dealing with the Palestinian problem as that of a people, with all that this implies, and consequently paving the way for fundamental progress toward peacemaking. The ongoing corridor discussions have proved that they cannot resolve it, nor can direct bilateral talks, especially if we look at the numerous meetings of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon, which have not achieved yet any fundamental progress.

Arab Summit To Assess Peace Process Advocated

TA1812150391 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Dec 91 p 7

[Editorial: "American Promises and Arab Silence"]

[Text] The critical stage that the peace talks in Washington have reached because of Israel's adherence to its position rejecting implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, its insistence on dealing with the Palestinian problem—the core of the conflict—as a marginal problem, and its continued implementation of its various policies in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands has been preceded by American promises to the Arab side as well as by calls for restraint and appeals to continue the talks despite Israel's inflexibility.

So far Washington has been satisfied with making promises to the Arab side without playing an active role to achieve fundamental progress in the bilateral negotiations, which are at a standstill between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel and which have not begun yet between Israel and the Palestinian side or between Israel and the Jordanian side because of Israel's refusal to negotiate with the Palestinian side. Given the situation that the peace process has reached, the question is: Are American promises adequate to activate the peace process? Will the Arab sides' restraint and engagement in the talks bring about a change in the Israeli position? Will limited, diverse Arab consultations be sufficient to respond to such an important and crucial position? Will the messages being sent by some Arab capitals to the U.S. Administration induce it to exert pressure on Israel?

The various Arab capitals are aware that Israel is continuing to pursue its policy of rejection and to implement its plans in the occupied territories, including the establishment of settlements and the imposition of harsh restrictions and measures in various areas. Those capitals are also aware that Israel ignored the U.S. invitation to hold the peace talks in Washington on 4 December. Did the U.S. Administration lift a finger in the face of all these positions? It only followed the Washington talks, making more promises and issuing more demands to the Arab side.

If such is the situation, how can one talk about a peace process based on the foundations and resolutions of international legitimacy? Can the Arab side continue to negotiate as long as the American promises have remained just that and Israel has not changed any of its policies?

Many questions are being asked by the average Palestinian and Arab, who is watching what is happening in Washington and what is being implemented in the occupied territories.

These legitimate questions should first of all receive clear answers from the Arab and Palestinian side taking part in the peace process and then from all the Arab states, which are remaining virtually silent in the face of events.

We believe that in light of the Israeli rejection and U.S. indifference, an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the next steps in the peace process is now an urgent necessity. This summit should be devoted to assessing Arab and Palestinian participation since the Madrid conference as well as the U.S. and Soviet role in the peace process until now in light of Israel's continued adherence to its well-known positions. This summit, then, should adopt unified, strong, and decisive Arab positions to be presented to the U.S. Administration and other powers that have always expressed their concern for the peace process in the region, especially because what is taking place now in Washington and the occupied territories cannot contribute to advancing the peace process.

Summit Should Determine 'Next Step'

LD1912231091 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] With the advent of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the negotiations in Washington have been having a rough time. Arab delegations—Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian, and Lebanese, have been facing another stage which calls for the need to take the entire issue back to the UN. The United States—the major co-chairman of the peace conference—refused to apply pressure on the Israeli government to make it skip its procedural maneuvers which wasted time, effort and earnest move toward negotiating the essential points and subjects. Instead, the U.S. Administration went on to lavish more pampering of the Israeli government. [passage omitted].

The Arab states—especially those that were called the frontline states—Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon, and of course the PLO, must hold a summit at which they will study the situation since the start of the Madrid conference to the time of the stumbling negotiations, in depth and seriousness so that they can decide on the next step without any hesitation and with whatever that can safeguard Arab rights and the credibility which must cast a shadow on international legitimacy. [as heard]

Silwan Events Show Shamir's 'Real Intentions'

TA1712165891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 16 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Acts Reveal Intentions"]

[Text] According to Israeli reports, it took the Israeli cabinet only five minutes last week to unanimously agree to a proposal put forth by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir which gives the green light to Jewish settlers to move into six Palestinian homes in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan.

Three days later, Israeli Attorney General Yosef Harish ruled that it was now legal for the settlers to occupy the homes and ordered the police to give the settlers the protection they needed when they move into the heavily populated all Palestinian village.

While this was being cooked up in the cabinet and by Israel's top leaders, two major Palestinian cities, Ramallah and al-Birah, and the surrounding villages and refugee camps, remained under 24-hour- a-day curfew for the second consecutive week. Over 70,000 Palestinians have been directly affected in one way or another, and thousands of other Palestinians are indirectly affected, by this measure.

And while the two cities were under strict curfew, Jewish settlers rampaged through them, terrorizing the unarmed civilian population and pillaging everything in their way.

While this way happening, the Israeli defense minister announced the creation of a new settlement not far from the West Bank city of Nabulus at a location where settlers have been squatting demanding that a full-blown settlement be established.

To make things even worse, the army reportedly gave the settlers the right to establish armed militia to police the West Bank. The settlers are known for their blind and ideological hatred and vindictiveness toward the Palestinian population and they do not waste a moment to show this. Only late last week, Israel Television showed settlers rampaging through a Palestinian village in the West Bank, uprooting trees which have been in place for hundreds of years. Someone who uproots trees this old clearly does not have any love for the land.

All this has been taking place in the last several days while Palestinian, Israeli and Arab delegations were meeting in Washington, trying to put an end to this ongoing conflict and cycle of violence. The recent actions in the occupied territories are contrary to all peace efforts and a reflection of the Shamir government's real intentions.

Shamir and his cabinet members are in 100 percent ideological agreement with the hard-line and fanatic settlers. This, unfortunately, is the bitter truth many of us who have been dreaming of a peaceful and honorable end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will have to live with. While Shamir and his cabinet members talk in front of television cameras about peace and stretching their hand out for peace, all actions on the ground indicate the exact opposite. If there is to be real peace, then, there will have to be concerted international efforts, not halfhearted, to get Israel to abide by international resolutions and conventions regarding the occupied territories.

'Arafat Greets Bahraini Amir on National Day

JN1712164591 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has sent a cable of congratulations to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah on the occasion of fraternal Bahrain's national day.

Australia Ends Ban on PLO Contacts

LD1912230391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Australia has decided to lift the ban which it had imposed on contacts with the PLO in the aftermath of the breaking out of the Gulf war against Iraq. An authorized Australian source said that the Australian minister of immigration received in his office yesterday the Palestinian envoy, Ibrahim 'Ayyad, member of the Palestinian National Council, who thanked the Australian minister for his country's support for the Palestinian issue at the United Nations. The radio quoted the source

as saying that the Palestinian envoy made an official request for Australia to raise the level of relations with the PLO to the full diplomatic level, and that Australia promised to examine it.

S. Asian Regional Affairs

Economic Issues To Dominate SAARC Summit

BK1712152491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Economic issues will dominate the sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit being held in Colombo on Saturday next [21 December]. The one-day short-duration summit also includes terrorism, environment, and tourism in its agenda. But the main thrust will be on liberalized trade in the region, concrete action plan for preservation of environment, and working out a common strategy for poverty alleviation.

The report of the official-level committee on economic cooperation will be considered by the Council of Ministers. The report calls upon member countries to commit themselves to trade liberalization, but with adequate safeguards for protecting their interests.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Spurns Israeli Invitation

JN1812182791 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Dec 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Cairo—The Egyptian foreign minister has turned down an official Israeli invitation to visit occupied Jerusalem this month.

Informed sources in Cairo have told AL-BAYAN that the Egyptian Government sees no need for a visit by an Egyptian official to Israel at present. Egyptian officials believe that such visits can be acceptable if progress was made in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ghali, Israeli Minister Discuss Peace Efforts

NC1912125291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—UN Secretary General-elect Dr. Butrus Ghali today received Professor Avner Sciaki, Israeli religious affairs minister and leader of the National Religious Party, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Israeli minister stated after the meeting that he extended his congratulations to Dr. Ghali on his election as UN secretary general and asked him to exert efforts to achieve peace between the Arab states and Israel and to continue the efforts of the UN secretary general to return the Israeli prisoners held in Lebanon to Israel. The Israeli minister expressed the hope that Dr. Ghali will continue the efforts in this regard.

Israel Asked To Free 220 'Terrorists'

TA1912200891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Israel is being asked to free another 220 terrorists in addition to those it already has released in return for information on the Israeli MIA's and navigator Ron Arad. Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general-elect, informed Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki, who is currently visiting Egypt, about this. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports that Ghali did not reveal in this afternoon's meeting at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry who is demanding the release of the additional terrorists, but, in his words, such an Israeli gesture could advance the negotiations for the release of the Israeli POW and MIA's. Ghali promised Minister Sciaki that when he begins his term as UN secretary general, he would act without delay to seek the release of the Israelis.

Foreign Ministry on Musa's Talks in Rome

NC1912184891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—During their meeting in Rome yesterday, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Italy, and Greece—'Amr Musa, Gianni De Michelis, and Andonios Samaras—discussed the possibility of implementing President Mubarak's proposal to the European Parliament last November to set up a Mediterranean grouping.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry this evening said the three ministers voiced their support for this initiative as a basis for comprehensive cooperation among the Mediterranean states.

The ministers underlined the need for cooperation among the eastern Mediterranean states because it provides a favorable atmosphere for curbing tension in the region.

The Egyptian, Italian, and Greek foreign ministers voiced support for the Middle East peace efforts on the basis of the land-for-peace principle and the equality of all parties concerned in terms of rights and duties. They agreed to maintain contacts among themselves to resume their joint efforts.

Chief Editor's Book Says Gulf War Planned

NC1912221491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the board and editor in chief of AL-AHRAM, said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was simply the first step in a larger plan hatched by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Nafi' refers to a meeting these four leaders held in Baghdad in early December 1990. Nafi' notes that it was said that Saddam Husayn told the Yemeni vice president [as received] at the end of the meeting that Iraq's ambitions were not confined to Kuwait and include eastern Saudi Arabia.

This report by AL-AHRAM's editor in chief (?leads) a preface to his new book "The Great Sedition [word indistinct] the Desert Storm".

AL-AHRAM will publish excerpts from the book beginning on 20 December. Excerpts from the preface will be published in the English-language AL-AHRAM WEEKLY.

Mr. Nafi' notes Egypt's stand at the start of the Gulf crisis and its efforts to bring about a regional solution and avert the internationalization of the problem. He notes Egypt realized this was bound to lead to a military intervention.

When it became clear that extra-regional intervention was inevitable, Egypt continued to exert its efforts within the context of international legitimacy represented by UN Security Council resolutions.

Egyptian moves were governed by its determination that any measures to decide the matter must provide a framework for discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict at a later stage.

Nafi' said that Egypt was always eager to lessen the prospects of a precarious situation spreading through the Middle East as a result of the Iraqi invasion.

Eritrean Front Secretary Arrives in Cairo

NC1912201891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1507 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Mr. Isaias Afewerki, secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit to Egypt during which he will be received by Dr. Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and secretary of the National Democratic Party, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He will also meet with UN Secretary General-Elect Dr. Butrus Ghali.

In an arrival statement, Afewerki said this is his first visit to Egypt since he assumed the post of secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea. He added the the aim of the visit is to discuss bilateral ties between Egypt and Eritrea, the situation on the Horn of Africa, and the benefits of Egypt's role in solving the problems in the region in general.

On the situation in Eritrea, he said that since its liberation, Eritrea is regarded as the most stable country, relatively speaking, in the Horn of Africa. The liberation, which came about at the end of the war, helped divert human and other resources in Eritrea to reconstruction after the long wars and drought from which the people of Eritrea have suffered.

As for the return of Egyptian fishing boats detained in Eritrea, he said there is no problem with respect to this issue and that there is an agreement in principle to release the boats. He added that talks are underway between the concerned parties and that a date will soon be fixed to release these 16 boats.

He noted that his tour includes Egypt, the Gulf states, and Yemen to explain developments and the current sitaution in Eritrea, as well as bilateral ties in light of the new developments, and to discuss the situation on the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea in general.

Libya

Political Editor Condemns U.S. 'State Terrorism'

LD1912181591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—JANA's political editor has commented on the Libyan Arab people's response to their leader, their dispatch of delegations to him reiterating the call for boycotting everything that is Western, and their desire to look toward the East and the South for establishing new cooperation. The editor wrote: The Libyan people from towns, villages, and elsewhere, old men and young, men and women, children and the aged, from all tribes and factions, have responded to the leader and have come in multitudes to join the leader. They declared to him that their patience has run out; they have decided not to live under the official terrorism practiced by the U.S. Administration and its allies. The masses have reaffirmed their rejection of the blackmail and terrorism being practiced against them, and through their documents and statements they emphasized their rejection—before the eyes and within earshot of the world—of the official state terrorism that continues to be directed against them.

The Libyans feel the unlimited oppression and injustice directed against them, while still suffering from the bitterness of Italian colonialism, annihilation operations, and gallows. This is a matter that made them insist on and persist in meeting the leader in spite of instructions to remain in their places, because he is near to them, explaining to them that the issue [the Pan Am aircraft bombing] is the subject of investigations, according to the law. However, the masses of tribes, and all sections of the Libyan people, who came from all directions to the leader's tent, were not convinced by this, and they were persistent in considering the whole issue a fabrication from the start.

America and its allies' insistence on escalating the situation and signalling aggression, despite the Maltese Government's official statement on the issue of the suitcase, is basically a fabrication. Malta's affirmation that the alleged suitcase did not leave Malta completely destroyed "the case of the U.S. and British accusations."

The insistence of the U.S. and British Governments, and their allies among the Western countries, is no more than a continuation of the official terrorism imposed on the Libyan people and a pretext for aggression against them to prevent them from making progress on their land and from living their own life with their complete freedom and will. Therefore, they do not want to be cheated again, or for Libya to be a victim once more of the intentions and designs of the new imperialism.

JANA's political editor went on to say that the "Libyan people still remember and feel the injustice and insult of what Italy did when it hanged the symbol of nationalism, the hero of the resistance, the shaykh of martyrs, 'Umar al-Mukhtar, who was treated as a criminal." The political editor affirmed that the masses demand a complete embargo on everything Western and emphatically insist on this embargo, emphasizing that it is useless to establish relations with the West, which has not yet abandoned its Crusader grudge, which looks for opportunities, and which fabricates pretexts and flimsy justifications, all to terrorize the Libyan Arab people and their Arab nation.

The JANA political editor said: The time has come when we should turn towards the East and the South after having seen that despite the fact that the Western states and their companies have received tens of billions of dollars in return for cooperation in implementing industrial and agricultural projects, and despite the Libyan people's readiness to establish real cooperation with them to realize joint benefits, the friendly attitude of the Libyan people made the other side—the West—more

hateful toward the Libyan people and made them direct more official terrorism against them. Therefore, the Libyan people are of the opinion that the Eastern and Southern states should benefit from the tens of billions earmarked for development projects in Libya, including the Great Man-Made River, whose completion made it certain that U.S. threats would increase. This is something that we reaffirmed to the world when the first phase of that project was completed. We told the world then that America is the enemy of progress, peace, and prosperity, and even of life itself, a matter to which we then asked the world to bear witness. We then said that threats against the Libyan people would double, and excuses and trivialities would emerge aimed at halting the flow of the water—that is to say, to stop life.

JANA's political editor concluded his commentary by saying that we have said all of this. He asked the heads of state and governments, ministers, and honored delegations which attended our celebrations marking the end of the first phase of the River of Life, to bear witness to this. He also asked them to bear witness to the fact that imperialist threats would be doubled against Libya after this project, a matter that has now been confirmed through the practicing of official state terrorism by the West and America against the Libyan people, whose patience has been exhausted by this terrorism directed against it. The Libyan people can no longer put up with this terrorism and are determined to resist it now that its objects and aims have been exposed.

Durdah Meets With Maltese Prime Minister

WA1812073891

For reportage on the visit by Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee, including reports on his talks with Maltese Prime Minister Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami, please see the OTHER COUNTRIES, Malta section of the 18 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Kuwait

Heir Apparent on Economy, Security, Peace

NC1912105091 London MBC Television in Arabic 1831 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, by MBC correspondent 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Nizam-al-Din] Your Highness, when do you expect normal oil production to be restored in Kuwait? Within six months or a year?

[Al-Sabah] I expect production to reach 400,000 barrels by the end of this month, increasing in the next few months. I hope, God willing, that we can produce 1.5 million barrels a day by the final quarter of next year.

[Nizam-al-Din] We notice that public facilities have been restored. You briefly reviewed what the government achieved during this record short period. How has this affected Kuwait's economy, which, along with its market performance, is being heavily discussed?

[Al-Sabah] I thank you for asking this question, because the economy is so topical. Everyone is talking about the government's plans and formulas for activating economic activity. The economy is one topic which greatly interests the government. While we are interested in security, we are also trying to find one or more formulas to activate or revive the economy.

In recent years Kuwait's economy encountered difficulties stemming from local and international factors. These strongly affected the economy.

Then, the unjust Iraqi aggression destroyed its infrastructure. Of course, we did not lose hope. We depended first on God, then, through Kuwait's sons' cooperation and strong sense of responsibility, serving their country in all fields, we worked to implement the plan, which aims to coordinate economic activity in all fields. God willing, every aspect of the Kuwaiti economy will be revitalized and reactivated according to the image I have in mind. Hopefully, this will happen in the next few months.

[Nizam-al-Din] While we are discussing the economy, I believe the government is paying attention to three prominent headlines in Kuwait: Indebtedness, or hard debts; liquidity of markets; and foreign loans, to which the aggression forced Kuwait to resort. Can we hear more than mere impressions of how these issues will be solved?

[Al-Sabah] As I mentioned some time ago, the government is paying great attention to this issue and is concerned about finding a formula or formulas to reactivate the economy after the problems it encountered in the past few months.

When we talk about hard debts, we do not, as some might think we do, mean to concentrate on aid from a group of debtors. We concentrate on supporting the financial institutions, banks, investment companies, and other Kuwaiti companies. I do not deny that the banks, as financial insitutions, are going through difficult times. Debtors' problems and inability to pay their debts will affect banks' service to the homeland and society.

As I see it, the government cannnot remain a spectator. The government, or state, must assist the Kuwaiti banks when, God forbid, their financial status is affected. The government told the world that it is responsible for maintaining Kuwaiti banks' sound position. The government, or state, must back these banks if they cannot meet their commitments. Then, the state will intervene directly or indirectly. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] When you referred to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, you referred to cooperating with Egypt and Syria. We read and hear many reports about the Damascus Declaration. Has it stumbled? Does it still exist? What is its future? To what extent will the Damascus Declaration cooperate?

[Al-Sabah] There has always been cooperation, in various spheres, with the brothers in Egypt and Syria. It will continue, God willing. It was enhanced in the security and military fields even before the Damascus Declaration, which merely placed it in a legal and constitutional framework. The brothers in Egypt, Syria, and the GCC countries have long cooperated. The cooperation will continue, expand, and take various forms. We will intensify cooperation with Egypt and Syria in various spheres.

[Nizam-al-Din] There has been a lot of talk about the security agreement concluded between Kuwait, the United States, and, I believe, the UK. We would like you to tell us about its limits. What are the facts?

[Al-Sabah] I am glad you asked this question because some people think the agreement is more significant than the facts warrant. They interpreted it in ways which never occurred to any Kuwaiti official. Let us discuss what made Kuwait conclude an agreement with the United States. We will very soon sign another, with Britain. We will also sign a security agreement with France. I am not revealing secrets because we have announced this publicly. There are motives and causes which made us sign security agreements with these three countries: Chiefly, the Iraqi aggression which showed treachery, disloyalty, and a disregard for values, principles, and neighborliness. This treacherous Iraqi aggression exposed the Iraqi regime's hostile, expansionist intentions. As I have said, there has always been cooperation with the brothers. It will continue. We discovered, however, that to defend Kuwaiti security against aggression, it is necessary to form agreements with the major countries which were keen to cooperate with us on security, without intervening in our internal affairs, or asking for bases; to do so out of friendship and their wish to maintain regional stability and security.

Kuwait is a member of the United Nations and has the right to agree with any state to protect its security and being.

These agreements include helping the Kuwaiti armed forces if there is external aggression. They stipulate training the armed forces, in Kuwait or in these states, providing weapons and military equipment for the naval, air, and ground forces, for the national guard, and police force. They include sending technicians and experts to train our youth in military institutions on the use and maintenance of weapons and military equipment. They include sending our youth to study at military institutes in the United States, Britain, and France.

These are the main points of security agreements between Kuwait and the United States, Britain, and France. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Highness, there is a lot of talk in the Arab world about the need to reunite and cement Arab ranks, excluding the Iraqi regime. How does Kuwait view reuniting the Arab ranks and restoring Arab solidarity? Will this isolate and punish Baghdad's ruling regime for aggressing against Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I do not know the Arabs to whom you refer. Are they the Arabs who denounced and condemned the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait or are they the Arabs who openly welcomed the Iraqi aggression, helping it in all fields?

I still remember some Arab officials' stands at the Cairo summit on 10 August 1990. I watched them move suspiciously and try to abort that conference. I watched their plans. Thanks be to God that God is present. President Husni Mubarak felt that there were several secret attempts to abort the conference so that the Iraqi forces would remain in Kuwait and continue to persecute and torture its citizens. Thanks be to God, the conference majority issued a resolution denouncing the Iraqi aggression, condemning its occupation of Kuwait, demanding that Iraqi forces withdraw, and supporting the legitimate Kuwaiti authority's restoration.

As for those who tried to abort the conference and stop it issuing positive resolutions, what can I say? I wish you would ask an ordinary Kuwaiti citizen what he thinks aobut this group of people. What shall I say about those who ignored principles and values and ran after their interests?

As a citizen and official, I say that we do not intend to contact those who adopted these cowardly, irresponsible stands which showed they colluded with the aggression, disregarded principles, and ran after interests.

[Nizam-al-Din] Even if these people or some of them retract and realize that they have wronged Kuwait, or, as some do, claim that their positions were misunderstood?

[Al-Sabah] Let these people first pay for the stands they adopted against the Kuwaiti people's liberty. They were not satisfied with assisting the Iraqi aggression in the media and political spheres. They even supplied the Iraqi armed forces with weapons and ammunition. We do not want to speak to these people. I was hoping to hear one word of denunciation that could lift the morale of my brothers living under occupation in Kuwait. They grudged us even words of support. Let them feel regret and sorrow now.

[Nizam-al-Din] I wish to move to another inter-Arab issue before returning to some Kuwaiti topics. Is the Kuwaiti stand on the peace conference and Arab-Israeli negotiations part of the GCC stand? How does Kuwait view this development?

[Al-Sabah] We declared at Arab, regional, and international conferences that Kuwait supports on principle the Palestinian people's quest to regain their usurped territories. Kuwait believes that Israel must implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have repeated that Kuwait wants the Middle East issue discussed at an international conference, under the aegis of the United Nations. Since the United States is trying hard to resolve the crisis we do not object to any formula the conference agrees, so long as there is a commitment to Resolutions 242 and 338. We support any resolution that the Palestinian people accept.

[Nizar-al-Din] Speaking of the Palestinian people, Your Highness, we notice that the uproar over the Palestinian community's conditions in Kuwait has quieted down, hardly covered by foreign media. Have things, God willing, returned to normal? Your Highness, what do you have to say about the Kuwaiti stance which has always supported this community and all Palestinian people?

[Al-Sabah] I have followed all the international media reports on the conditions of the Palestinian brothers in Kuwait. They contradict the facts. You are here, you can verify this. I do not deny nor does any Palestinian that some in Kuwait directly or indirectly collaborated with the occupation authorities. You can ask any Kuwaiti and he will tell you how these people collaborated. There were Palestinians who were neutral. There were even other Palestinians—I say this publicly—who backed the Kuwaiti resistance. I repeat—in my official capacity and out of concern for my country's security—that if we discover anyone of any nationality or profession has assisted the Iraqi enemy, we will take the necessary measures to safeguard the homeland and citizens' security. I believe this is Kuwait's legitimate right and the legitimate right of any country that wants to defend its security and existence against saboteurs.

[Nizam-al-Din] In the same context, we want to ask about the foreign communities' issue. We have read about a scheme to reconsider Kuwait's demographic structure; one of the lessons learned from the occupation. How much has the committee done? Has it drawn up a scheme?

[Al-Sabah] Following the liberation, I told my brothers in the cabinet that we had numerous issues to discuss. I called them issues, not problems. First we had the demographic structure or policy, followed by the security plan, individuals without citizenship, the media, and education. I told the brother members that these were important and that we must devote ourselves to their

solution. We began with security. I can say, God be praised, that we are implementing the plan on homeland and citizens' security. It includes many measures that we do not have to detail here. As to the population plan, I met with the brother members of the planning (?council) and told them that this was our only opportunity to discuss the population plan in light of developments in Kuwait. We formed a committee which is cooperating with private and public sector experts on one or more formulas for the population plan. I asked its chairman and members to submit their report, God willing, in the second week of January. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Highness, can I understand that there is no discrimination between foreign workers by nationality, other than those who collaborated with the aggression. They are a special case. As to others' rights and obligations, are they all welcome in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I hope you will not believe media rumors that the Kuwaiti authorities are torturing and imprisoning many innocent people. As government head, I deny such reports and rumors. I repeat, however, that every person who was in Kuwait before or during the occupation and collaborated with the occupiers, regardless of the extent of his collaboration, will not be allowed to remain. This is the least we will do. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Dakar Summit Results

PM1912115491 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Dec 91 p 5

[Report on interview with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal by chief editors of the Saudi newspapers and their correspondents at the Dakar Islamic summit; date not given]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that the resolutions adopted by the sixth Islamic summit in Dakar reflect the scale of the change in Islamic thinking for the sake of strengthening constructive cooperation both among the Islamic community states and between them and the other world states under the new international order.

In a wide-ranging interview given to chief editors of the local papers and their correspondents at the Dakar summit, his highness said: The fact that the summit's resolutions were based on the perpetuation of international legitimacy; support for UN resolutions toward establishing security, stability, and peace in the world; and rejecting all forms of terrorism, aggression, and war in an unprecedented unanimity emphasizes the Islamic community's awareness of the nature of the changes taking place in this age and the need for cooperation as the sole and principal option for joint action in order to exploit all capabilities in the service of our peoples and societies. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke about the peace process and his expectations of the negotiations expected to resume between the Arabs and Israel. He said: Those who know Israel well expect more intransigence and rigidity and the rejection of any proposal that could lead to the restoration of the Palestinians' rights. This, because it has been accustomed to rejecting everything and defending its positions, policies, and ambitions to the last moment.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added: Israel's increasing isolation will eventually force it to accept a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. This, because it has lost the main pillars on which it used to rely in rallying sympathy, and first and foremost, international sympathy with it, as a result of the hard-line Arab positions in the past.

His highness said that Israel's dependence on the international position has collapsed, because Arab strategy has changed recently and been transformed from rejection to understanding. There is no longer anyone who refuses to accept peace with Israel or to negotiate with it. [passage omitted]

His highness said that the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain does not arouse our fears or concern and that the decision to have recourse to the International Court of Justice in The Hague does not mean that the Gulf Cooperation Council states cannot resolve a small problem such as this within the framework of the one family. [passage omitted]

His highness added: Many regional and international problems have been resolved by the International Court of Justice, because a neutral verdict is bound to prompt all parties to comply, thus keeping the unified Gulf entity strong.

His highness revealed that it was the Kingdom which proposed recourse to the International Court of Justice to settle the dispute between the two sisters, because it does not want that dispute to deepen or continue. Nor does it believe that their recourse to the International Court harms their interests or affects their brotherly relations.

He said that the two states accepted the Saudi proposal, which proceeds from a real awareness of the Gulf's higher interests. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Repeal of Zionism Resolution 'Setback' for UN

JN2012120391 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Dec 91 p 1

[Editorial: "A Regrettable Resolution"]

[Text] At dawn yesterday [17 December], the UN General Assembly repealed its 1975 resolution considering Zionism to be a form of racism. Reports say that 111 countries voted for the repeal, while only 25 voted against it.

With due respect to the United Nations and its General Assembly, the move has several implications which should cause one to pause.

The first implication is that Arab influence at the United Nations has eroded remarkably, while Israel's influence has grown remarkably. Evidence of this is that the number of countries labeling Zionism as a racist movement shrank from 75 in 1975 to 25 last night.

The second implication—and a truly regrettable one—is that at least 21 Islamic countries did not respect the recommendation made by the Islamic foreign ministers conference, held only two weeks ago in Dakar, that the 46 countries participating in the Islamic summit undertake efforts to prevent the rescindment of the UN resolution on Zionism.

The third implication is that despite all that has been said about the role of the United Nations in the new world order, the international organization is still unable to free itself from the pressure of the influential big powers.

The fourth and most important implication is that the repeal, adopted by the majority of UN members yesterday, cannot nullify the fact that the Zionist entity is practicing the ugliest forms of racial discrimination against the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories and is constantly violating international and human laws and conventions. Israel will always be branded and condemned as racist by people throughout the world, despite the fact that many governments conceal this condemnation due to unbearable pressures they cannot resist.

There remains one little word: The repeal by the United Nations of one of its historic resolutions is not a setback for the Arabs as much as it is a setback for the international organization itself at a time when it desperately needs to raise its head and strengthen its status and the prestige of international legitimacy.

Saddam Husayn Decree Awards Medals to Officers

JN1912192591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Five republican decrees were issued yesterday awarding a number of military commanders and officers Mother of Battles badges and medals of valor, in appreciation for their responsible leading role and their distinguished courage in defending the honor and sovereignty of great Iraq and the dignity and security of the Arab nation, through their heroic confrontation with the chapter of treason during the Mother of Battles.

Following is the text of the republican decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation for the responsible leading role and the distinguished courage demonstrated by Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad Shallal in defending great Iraq's honor and sovereignty, and the glorious Arab nation's dignity and security through the heroic confrontation with the chapter of treason in the Mother of Battles, and in accordance with Revolution Command Council [RCC] Resolution No. 329 dated 2 September 1991 and Article 26 of the amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 for the year 1982, we have decreed the following:

Staff Maj. Gen. 'Ali Muhammad Shallal, commander of the border forces, shall be awarded the Mother of Battles Badge, Second Class, as well as three medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the responsible leading role and distinguish courage demonstrated by Staff Maj. Gen. Mahmud Fayzi Muhammad in defending great Iraq's honor and sovereignty, and the glorious Arab nation's dignity and security through the heroic confrontation with the chapter of treason in the Mother of Battles, and in accordance with the RCC Resolution No. 329 dated 2 September 1991, and Article 26 of the amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 for the year 1982, we have decreed the following:

Staff Maj. Gen. Mahmud Fayzi Muhammad, commander of the 1st Army Corps, shall be awarded the Mother of Battles Badge, Second Class, as well as five medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the responsible leading role and the distinguish courage demonstrated by Staff Maj. Gen. Nasir Sa'id Tawfiq in defending great Iraq's honor and sovereignty, and the glorious Arab nation's honor and security, through the heroic confrontation with the chapter of treason in the Mother of Battles, and in accordance with the RCC Resolution No. 329 of 2 September 1991 and Article 26 of the amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 for the year 1982, we have decreed the following:

Staff Maj. Gen. Nasir Sa'id Tawfiq, commander of the 5th Army Corps, shall be awarded the Mother of Battles Badge, Second Class, as well as five medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the responsible leading role and the distinguished courage demonstrated by the following top officers and commanders in defending great Iraq's honor and sovereignty and the glorious Arab nation's dignity and security, through the heroic confrontation with the chapter of treason in the Mother of Battles, and in accordance with RCC Resolution No. 329 dated 2 September 1991 and Article 26 of the amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 for the year 1982, we have decreed the following:

The following top officers shall be awarded the Mother of Battles Badge, Second Class, as well as five medals of valor:

1. Staff Brigadier General Hasan Sa'id Ibrahim
2. Staff Brig. Gen. Jasim Muhammad 'Abd
3. Staff Brig. Gen. Waddah Thamir Isma'il
4. Staff Brig. Gen. Sulayman Yusuf Ahmad

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the heroic stand and the excellent courage demonstrated by the following top officers and commanders in defending the nation's dignity and might, and for their steadfastness in the Mother of Battles from the start and until the destruction of the chapter of treason in defense of great Iraq, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 for the year 1982, we have decreed the following:

First: Staff Maj. Gen. Ahmad Hasan 'Ubayd shall be awarded three medals of valor.

Second: Staff Maj. Gen. Hazim 'Abd-al-Razzaq Shihab shall be awarded five medals of valor.

Third: Each of the following top officers shall be awarded four medals of valor:

1. Staff Brig. Gen. Kan'an Mansur Khalil

2. Staff Brig. Gen. Nuri Jasim 'Abdallah

3. Staff Brig. Gen. Ra'd Hamzah Mustafa

4. Staff Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Khalil Ibrahim

5. Staff Brig. Gen. Ra'd Rashad Muhammad

Fourth: Each of the following top officers and commanders shall be awarded three medals of valor:

1. Staff Brig. Gen. Nabil 'Abdallah Shahin

2. Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abbas 'Inad Ghadib al-'Ithawi

3. Staff Brig. Gen. Sarab Sa'dun Jasim

4. Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abd Khalaf Muhammad 'Umar al-'Ujayli

Fifth: Brig. Gen. 'Adnan Anjad Zuwayyid shall be awarded five medals of valor.

Sixth: Staff Colonel Ghanim Muhammad Zaydan shall be awarded five medals of valor.

Seventh: Each of the following officers shall be awarded four medals of valor:

1. Col. Ahmad Jasim Muhammad Hasan

2. Col. Hamid Mahmud Muhammad

Eighth: Each of the following officers shall be awarded three medals of valor:

1. Staff Col. Nizar Yunis 'Ali

2. Staff Col. Samir Zaydan Khalaf Tu'mah

3. Col. Jalal 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Latif

4. Col. 'Abbas Fulayyih Dhiyab

5. Lieutenant Col. Hamid Hasan Husayn

6. Major Ra'd Ghazal Hasan

7. Maj. Samir Bashir Ibrahim

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Decision Pardons Army Deserters, Draft Dodgers

JN2012091991 [Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1750 GMT on 19 December broadcasts a 17-minute "special seminar" on the Revolution Command Council decision of July 1991 to pardon deserters from military service, draft dodgers, and those who had fled the country during their military service. The pardon expires on 20 December. An unidentified moderator hosts four armed forces officers—three generals and a brigadier general—and asks them to shed light on the pardon decision and to explain the procedures and technicalities of the decision's implementation. The guests are the director of the Armed Forces Legal Department, the director of general recruitment, the director of the personnel department, and the commander of military discipline.

Before introducing the guests, the moderator reminds listeners of the Revolution Command Council's "humanitarian decision" and urges the beneficiaries to return to their units. "First, we remind you of our righteous martyrs who sacrificed their dear, pure souls for the Iraq of pride and for the dignity of your noble families. Second, we remind you of your great ancestors, who used to compete for sacrifice and martyrdom for the noble values, principles, and standards that characterize the Arab."

The director of the legal department then speaks, describing the pardon decision as "a valuable opportunity." Those who take advantage of it, he says, "will join the honorable fighters defending this mujahid country." He explains that these people will be treated exactly like their peers who were born in the same year in terms of demobilization and services. If the returnee's unit is already demobilized and he had completed his compulsory military service, then he will be demobilized. If he had not completed his military service, he will be demobilized as soon as he completes it.

The other officers then explain what those intending to benefit from the decision can do and where to go to do this. They also explain their particular department's preparations for receiving returnees and implementing the decision.

Concluding the seminar, the moderator thanks his guests and urges "our comrades to rush to benefit from this humanitarian decision of the wise leadership."

RCC Revokes Compulsory, Reserve Service Measure

JN1912181391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision revoking Decision No. 895 issued on 22 November 1986. The following is the text of the new decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC

Decision No. 438

Date: 4 Jumada al-Akhirah 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 10 December 1991

Decision: In accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. RCC Decision No. 895, issued on 22 November 1986 and amended by RCC Decision No. 412 on 28 June 1989, shall be revoked.

2. This decision shall take effect on the date of its issuance in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

It is noteworthy that the RCC had issued Decision 895 on 22 November 1986, and amended it with RCC Decision 412 on 28 June 1989.

The following is the text of Decision 895:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC

Decision No. 895

Date: 22 November 1986

Decision: In its session on 22 November 1986, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Holders of higher degrees (doctorate, master, or their equivalent) who have completed their compulsory service without being demobilized from the Army shall be appointed at the ministry or institution that paid their tuition fees. The Ministry of Planning shall refer the names of those who have not had contact with it to the Presidential Office, so as to appoint them to ministries and other institutions according to need. This applies to holders of higher degrees (doctorate, master, or their equivalent) and holders of specialized medical degrees who studied for at least three years, and those who have joined the reserve service and spent no less than six months in it after they obtained their last higher degree.

2. When appointments are made, the categories mentioned in part 1 shall be considered assignees by the Army to the parties to which they are appointed, until they are legally demobilized.

3. The provisions of 1 and 2 shall apply to members of the teaching staff at universities and the Establishment of Technical Institutes, who are asked to serve their compulsory military service or act as reservists.

4. The period of military service that follows their having spent six months as reservists, for those who are covered by the provisions of this decision, shall be considered as actual service at state institutions, so as to enable them to enjoy sabbatical leave, scholarships, and fellowships.

5. The provisions of this decision apply to those who are currently performing their compulsory service or reserve service, and those who join after they meet the same conditions.

6. RCC Decision No. 1137 issued on 2 September 1982; Decision No. 1288 issued on 16 October 1982; Decision No. 1255 issued on 17 November 1984; and Decision No. 5 issued on 5 January 1986, shall be revoked.

7. The competent ministers shall see to the implementation of this decision.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

National Assembly Denounces Repeal of Zionism Act

JN1912160491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—The National Assembly has denounced the UN resolution repealing former Resolution 3379, which deemed Zionism a form of racial discrimination.

In a statement issued today, the Assembly stated that it considered this step a serious precedent in UN history and a disgrace in the history of humanity.

The Assembly pointed out that the repeal is viewed as a U.S.-led campaign, in which the United States put all types of pressure on UN General Assembly member states. This, it added, clearly shows the total U.S. control over the international organization and its agencies.

The Assembly asserted that the UN General Assembly's decision to repeal Resolution 3379 is part of a series of resolutions that the Security Council has adopted against Iraq, following the end of the so-called Gulf crisis and the Islamic summit conference in Dakar, which witnessed divisions and differences over the Palestine question, as well as the omission of the word "jihad" against the Zionist entity from the final statement—a word which was included in the Mecca Declaration.

The Assembly urged all world parliaments and peace-loving forces to expose the Zionist plot and its dimensions, and to make every possible effort to rescue the Palestinian people from their ordeal in the occupied territories.

UN Envoy Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN2012114091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] New York, 20 Dec (INA)—Iraq once again has protested against the violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of provocation and surveillance.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations said that U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace between 11

and 18 December totaled 113 sorties over different areas of Iraq and at various speeds and altitudes.

In his memorandum, Iraq's envoy said that a number of hostile formations overflew the al-Faruq and Firnas airfields at different times on 16-17 and 17-18 December.

Minister on Plan To Increase Southern Oil Output

JN1912115691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—[Oil Minister] Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stated that as part of a comprehensive future plan, the output capacity of the mammoth southern oil fields will reach 6 million barrels per day [bpd] of crude oil instead of the pre-30-state-aggression output of 3.52 million bpd.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH today, al-Hiti added that the ministry cadres and technical departments have devised a large-scale plan to develop the mammoth oil fields in the southern area, especially in the Majnun, west al-Qurnah, and al-Halfayah oil fields, to bring production up to 6 million bpd.

He explained that the ministry plan also provides for increasing drilling operations and for the rehabilitation of thousands of oil wells up to the year 2000. The plan also provides for the promotion of resources in new directions to serve our national economy.

The minister stated that on 17 January 1992, many strategic oil projects will be operated in the operation sites of the South Oil Company and the State Enterprise for Oil and Gas Processing in the southern area. This will include the reoperation of the first stage of the Mina' al-Bakr terminal, the second stage of the lubricants refinery, and the third stage of raising the production of the southern oil fields and the fourth gas compression station.

Al-Hiti indicated that mid-January will witness the inauguration of the first two platforms in Mina' al-Bakr as a first stage. He noted that the terminal will have an export capacity of 800,000 bpd.

Notes Current Export Capacity

JN1912171191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah, Southern Iraq, 19 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has emphasized that all necessary preparations have been made for exporting 1.5 million barrels of crude oil a day.

The minister told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the second stage of the reconstruction campaign, which the South Oil Company and the southern refineries are carrying out in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Military Industrialization Organization, has been completed.

He said that our oil projects have been restored to what they were before the 30-state aggression, and noted that the lubricants production unit at the al-Basrah refinery began operations today to produce 70,000 tonnes of various lubricants per year. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reports 16 Dec Baghdad Demonstration

NC1912170991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The masses of the al-Thawrah and [name indistinct] quarters of Baghdad staged a demonstration on 16 December to protest against the ruling authorities.

The authorities' henchmen quelled the demonstration and detained a large number of citizens.

Kurdish Leader, Opposition Work 'To Topple' Saddam

NC2012134091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani has called for the tyrant Saddam Husayn to be toppled. He affirmed that he is cooperating with Iraqi opposition groups to topple Saddam and his corrupt regime.

Talabani told REUTER today that the defeated dictator's days are numbered. He emphasized that Saddam is getting weaker by the day and that the Iraqi Army loathes him. The economic crisis could deal him a final blow.

Opposition Reports Ambush of Government Forces

NC1912151991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1419 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In continuing the march of jihad and revolution, the popular forces consisting of the sons of the tribes in the marshlands ambushed a force from the military engineering group of the tyrant's forces, consisting of 10 vehicles, among them personnel carriers, on the (al-Shattaniyah)-al-'Amarah. They killed a large number of the enemy, including a first lieutenant, while the remainder fled. Our heroic mujahidin also seized a large number of medium- and large-caliber weapons. The tyrant regime's forces are trying to open many roads inside the marshlands to facilitate the transportation of troops and supplies to strike this region and annihilate its steadfast residents.

IDF Detains 6 in Lebanon, Transfers 3 to Israel

TA2012121891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit operated last night near Jibshit in southern Lebanon, approximately 10 km north of the security zone. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that as part of the operational activity against terrorists in the area, the soldiers in the IDF unit apprehended and brought to Israel three people suspected of having carried out hostile terrorist activity. The IDF sustained no casualties. This was a routine operation against terrorism in Lebanon which is not related to the POW and MIA issue.

According to the latest reports from southern Lebanon, three of the six residents who were detained last night have been transferred to Israel. They are: Shawqi Fahs, a journalist working for Beirut radio; Kamil al-'Abd Nahhal, and Muhammad al-Ghul.

Sources in the Lebanese Army and police have reported that 15 Israeli commandos seized six men at 0100, interrogated them, and later released three, taking with them the other three. A Lebanese Army officer said that the raiders arrived in three helicopters which landed inside the security strip and that the Israeli troops continued from there on foot. They set up a roadblock on the road leading to al-Nabatiyah, where they stopped the men.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has reported that Hizballah's radio announced that none of the detainees have any connection with that organization.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus cites the Voice of Lebanon, which reported that early this morning a bomb left behind by the Israelis exploded in Jibshit and that it left two locals dead and seven injured. This report has not been confirmed by any other source.

Levi on POW-MIA Issue, Lebanon Operation

TA2012120391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1121 GMT 20 Dec 91

["Excerpt" of news conference by Foreign Minister David Levi at Ben-Gurion Airport on 20 December, upon his return from the United States—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Sir, in the past few days you met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and you discussed with him the issue of the POW's and MIA's. Meanwhile, here in Israel the optimism that had previously characterized the mood regarding this issue in Israel has changed. Do you think the process is really stuck?

[Levi] Please. I would like people to refrain from using such terms as pessimism or optimism; rather, we should remember that we are duty-bound to take action on the matter, as indeed we have been doing. We are doing everything to bring about the release and return of our POW's and MIA's. We would not have forgiven ourselves if we had not tried to explore every avenue and exploit every contact to fulfill this sacred duty. We went the extra mile toward the UN secretary general and helped him guarantee a successful end to the mission he took upon himself. We had no similar person with such high international stature put his reputation on the line in enlisting to perform this mission. Clearly, these days we must exercise responsibility and firmness, but at the same time also circumspection. That is why we made certain concerted efforts in this direction. My meeting with the secretary general was planned upon my arrival. I wanted to meet him. I have known him for a long time; furthermore, we have forged friendly relations, and I saw it fit to do my best so that the days that still remain before the end of his term on 1 January indeed bear fruit. I stressed the aspect that Israel did everything to make sure that the Western hostages are released, and with them also our dear ones. The first part ended, and we are glad about that, but we insist that the second part be fulfilled as we were promised.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar dispatched his aide, Picco, to Tehran with a personal message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He informed me that he has the personal promise of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to fulfill his part, as he had promised Perez de Cuellar. The UN secretary general insists that this be honored. I told him that he must not rest because his pledge is the pledge of the United Nations as a whole—this is how we see it. After 1 January, we said, the situation will not be one in which he would be able personally to correct things. That is why these days are critical, and from our point of view we insist that he fulfill his promise to us. This was also the demand I raised in my meeting with President Bush, where I raised that issue as well. Mr. Bush said that he has and will continue to do his best so that our dear ones will return home.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Dan Eshel] Mr. Foreign Minister, foreign news agencies report that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] carried out an operation in Lebanon today, that six Lebanese men—some of them possibly Hizballah members—have been apprehended. According to these reports, three people were abducted. What do you know about it?

[Levi] The war against the terrorists continues. They want to harm our security, kill, destroy, and also torpedo peace. Israel is carrying out its obligation to self-defense with all its might. The very fact that an operation is aborted or exposed in advance, thereby averting killings and destruction—in that the IDF does its duty.

[Eshel] Are you, then, confirming that such a raid in Lebanon was conducted?

[Levi] I said that the war against the terrorists continues every hour and every day, day and night, because they scheme and plan to hit us. I am neither confirming nor denying anything; I can only confirm one thing, and that is that the IDF does everything to sabotage hostile operations against Israel.

Arens Foresees 'Era' of Nonconventional Weapons

TA1912194291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan, which will be implemented beginning next year, the defense establishment will have to prepare for an era of dealing with long-range missiles and the possibility of nonconventional weapons. Minister Arens made those remarks to members of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees, which debated next year's defense budget, our correspondent Hayim Platner reports. Our correspondent adds that Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, asked the committees not to approve the defense budget framework proposed by the Treasury for 1993-94, because it contains a cut of hundreds of millions of shekels in real terms for each year. The chief of staff said the proposed budget would not permit the implementation of the IDF's multiyear plan as approved by the defense establishment and as presented to the inner cabinet.

New Gas Masks, Civil Defense Plans Detailed

TA1912191591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Gas masks and air filters which were provided to the Israeli public just before the Gulf war are to be exchanged in a national distribution campaign being planned for next year. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is also examining a new type of protective mask which will be easier to wear. On this and other developments regarding the home front, here is defense reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Details of the extensive planning for home front defense were given at a press conference this afternoon by Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadya 'Eli; Brigadier Ze'ev Livne, the IDF's deputy head of operations; and the commander of the Civil Defense Corps, Brigadier Uri Manos. A number of lessons from the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel are incorporated in the new plans, although the speakers pointed out that if Israel has to face another war in the future, it can be expected to be considerably more severe on the home front than was the case during the Gulf war.

A major change in home front defense is the establishment of a special IDF Home Front Command, which will begin operating soon and be headed by a general. It will coordinate and direct all emergency and rescue services for the major urban centers of the country, freeing the regional military commands to deal with the fighting fronts.

The controversy over shelters or security rooms for schools and private homes is also addressed in the new planning. New buildings and apartment blocks will be required to have security rooms installed on every floor, rather than communal shelters. The Civil Defense authorities have already been carrying out extensive tests to discover the best type of wall thickness and window material. As to existing homes and flats, here the Gulf War rule will remain: Should the need arise, residents can choose between suitably prepared safe rooms in their homes, or communal shelters if they feel they can reach them speedily.

As to gas masks and other protective equipment, a new type of protective mask for young children has already been developed, and the IDF is now testing a new type of mask for adults made of plastic rather than rubber and in the shape of a hood. Instead of having to fasten a number of straps and make sure that the mask fits tightly, the wearer will simply put the hood over his head and face and tie it at the neck.

It's hoped that quantities of the new hood will be ready for distribution when a national campaign begins in October next year to examine and replace all existing masks and air filters. The campaign will be carried out in stages similar to the original distribution program, and everyone's protective equipment will either be exchanged for the latest model or for newer model standard gas masks and filters. In addition, new arrivals in the country since the Gulf war will be able to get their protective equipment.

More on 'Home Front Guard' Strategy

TA2012105791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] In October 1992, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will begin replacing the protective kits against chemical warfare that were distributed to the public. "The defense establishment has corrected all the faults pointed out by the state comptroller," Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadya Eli and the heads of the IDF home front guard said at a news conference yesterday .

Brigadier General Ze'ev Livne, deputy chief of operations, said that the IDF has implemented all the recommendations made in the state comptroller's report. [passage omitted]

"This is a gradual plan which, when implemented, will provide a solution for any problem the public might have. The budgets allocated for this purpose are several times higher than in previous years. This is a revolutionary change," Livne said.

Speaking on the issue of protected rooms inside the houses, Livne said that examinations made by the Technion [Israel Institute of Technology] and the IDF indicate that if every home in Israel would have a room protected according to the new regulations, it would reduce the number of potential casualties in a chemical attack by some 50 percent.

'Ovadya Eli said that the defense minister yesterday endorsed new regulations concerning the new method of

protection and defense. From now on, every new apartment built in Israel will have to include a protected room. In nearly 1 million existing apartments in Israel, the owners will be allowed to accede the space approved for construction to build the protected room. "The principle guiding us is to make the protected rooms usable in everyday life, while being excluded from the approved construction space. The regulations concerning the method of protection will be published within a month."

The defense establishment has also concluded its plan to reorganize the Israel home front guard. The Home Front Command headquarters will probably be set up in Ramla. The plan, drawn in accordance with the lessons learned from the Gulf war, estimates that in future wars, the home front will be hurt.

The Home Front Command which will be headed by a major general and will be in charge of a densely populated urban area. All the units dealing with home front intelligence, identification, recovery, and rescue will be subject to its control. According to the plan, several thousand reserve soldiers will be discharged from their military duties, and those whose civil occupation involves issues relevant to home front defense—such as local authorities' engineers, firemen, and so on—will no longer be called for reserve military service. The new home front command will be in charge of the area between 'Akko and Ashqelon in the initial stage.

'Dozens' of Hebron 'Terrorist Squads' Detained

TA1912123391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Security forces operating in the Hebron District have recently apprehended dozens of terrorist squads whose members used to throw Molotov cocktails, activate explosive charges, and resort to firearms. The Hebron Sector commander told our correspondent Moti Amir that the number of disturbances in the area has declined drastically in the recent period, and the detention of the terrorist squad members has brought about relative calm.

The commander further stated that settlers in the Hebron District have taken almost no retaliatory steps; they settled for demonstrating in the wake of attacks and attempted attacks. In one instance, they broke the windows of two cars. He stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] follows the letter of the law in its dealings with settlers. In recent demonstrations, eight settlers were detained and charged by the Hebron Police.

Last night, a resident of Qabatiyah in Samaria was assassinated by gunshots fired from a car. Two other people who were standing next to him were wounded. The motive is believed to have been the suspicion that he had collaborated with the authorities.

Arab Family Ordered Out Pending Silwan Ruling

TA1912193991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Jerusalem District Court Judge Tzvi Tal ordered an Arab family evacuated from Bet Hatzofe in Silwan. Our court reporter says that the Qara'i family entered the building after a magistrate issued an order to that effect a few days ago. With its evacuation, the apartment will remain empty until the court makes it final decision.

Nine Arab families from Silwan appealed tonight against the 'Amidar firm and demanded that the homes of absentee owners be rented to them and not to settlers. MAPAM [United Workers Party] Knesset Member Hayim Oron also appealed to the High Court of Justice, demanding that the leases signed with the settlers be revoked. Oron claims that the apartments were purchased with Construction and Housing Ministry funds allocated originally to resolve housing problems for the retarded and disabled.

Arab Sector Unemployment Twice National Average

TA2012122491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 91 p 5

[Report by Hayim Davidi]

[Text] The number of unemployed in the Arab sector is double the national average. This was stated by the [Communist Party-affiliated daily] AL-ITTIHAD following a survey it conducted recently. According to the survey, there are currently more than 37,000 unemployed, which constitutes 22 percent of the entire Israeli Arab work force. The national average unemployment rate is currently 11 percent.

According to the AL-ITTIHAD research, "it is impossible to obtain official data concerning unemployment in the Arab sector." The paper also states that the massive Soviet immigration is pushing many of the Arab workers out of their jobs.

Scientist—Israel Sold Missile Technology to PRC

TA1912130791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Dec 91 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] "Israel sold the PRC cruise missile technology and was of great help in developing the Chinese ballistic missile program." This was revealed by a Chinese scientist at an international symposium on arms proliferation held at the University of Wisconsin.

The scientist, Hua Di [name as published], said that he had held a senior post in the Chinese ballistic missile development program and explained the PRC's policy on the sale of missiles to the symposium's participants. Hua Di claimed that "there was no real chance of

limiting such sales because they were one of the most important sources of income for the Chinese treasury."

The scientist pointed to the "ironic aspect" of the Chinese missile development program by bringing attention to the fact that the Chinese missiles which are stationed in Saudi Arabia and aimed at targets in Israel were developed with the aid of Israeli technology sold to China.

Hua Di asserted that Chinese policy held that there was no difference whatsoever between selling fighter jets and the sale of ballistic missiles. Therefore, the PRC did not intend to limit the sales of missiles to other countries, including countries in the Middle East.

The Chinese scientist said that the PRC had developed its tactical ballistic missiles solely for export purposes, and that it had no use or operational justification for them within the framework of its defense policy. The Chinese have developed a variety of groups of ballistic missiles for different ranges. One of these groups includes the CSS-2 missile sold to Saudi Arabia. This missile has a range of approximately 3,000 km. The missiles sold to Saudi Arabia are equipped with conventional warheads. Another group includes the M-9 missiles which Syria is interested in purchasing. These missiles have a range of approximately 600 km. Syria's procurement request has not been confirmed yet; however, additional contacts on this issue are apparently underway between the two countries.

Accord on Digital Cable Signed With Cyprus

TA2012121491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 91 p C12

[Report by Tzvi Zrahya]

[Text] Bezeq, the Israel Telecommunications Corporation, yesterday signed an agreement with the Cypriot communications company to lay an undersea cable between the two countries. The cable will carry digital communications between Israel and Cyprus and will be used for communications to other countries, through the two countries.

The cable will be laid between the Cypriot beach and the Nahariyyah beach in northern Israel and, according to the plans, it will be activated in a year. So far, the United States, England, Germany, France, and Greece have agreed to take part in the project.

The new cable will be 250 km long and will be one of the longest planned to operate without underwater amplifiers, which constitutes a technological breakthrough.

King Husayn Addresses Military Graduates

JN1912134891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1205 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Full recording" of speech delivered by King Husayn at graduation ceremony of 32d class of Command and Staff College in Amman on 19 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother graduate officers, esteemed audience, we sincerely greet you as comrades-in-arms who have not loosened their grip on their weapons, and as comrades in the march, who have become more determined and more loyal to the march by the challenges they are facing. I am pleased to be among you today, in this unique military edifice, where we share with you and experience together the joys of graduation after you have assimilated the knowledge you are fit to have and after you have been instructed in the studies that you need to pursue duty in your military units and in all your positions within our Jordanian Armed Forces with efficiency, capability, and determination.

While I sincerely congratulate you on the success that your minds and hands have attained and on your graduation from this college, I also extend similar congratulations to your colleagues from the fraternal and friendly countries with whom you have shared the 32d class of the Command and Staff College. While we feel a real and genuine pride in their presence among us in this class, in the same way many of your Arab and foreign colleagues have participated with you over the past years in the life of this college, we would like to affirm on this occasion that their participation is a genuine expression of the confidence the brothers and friends have in our military institutes and of their eagerness to gain the knowledge, training, and studies that our officers gain. This is a testimony of which we are proud. Credit for this should go to all those who have worked with sincerity, made loyal efforts, and made efficient contributions to the students of this college since its first class until this one, the 32d class, the graduation of whose members we celebrate now after they have completed all the requirements of success.

Brother graduates, esteemed audience: One year ago, I stood in this place warning against the complications of the Gulf crisis and its deep effects on the present and future of this nation. We are now aware that the wounds it left behind have deeply hurt the Arab identity and left a big crack in the pan-Arab structure. The moment this crisis ended militarily, we called for leaving it behind and to embark on—together with all our brothers—a comprehensive Arab endeavor to nurse our same wounds, bypass our differences and disagreements, and restore confidence among our ranks. We proceed in all this from the importance of the fact that awareness should unite our minds, that efforts should unite our strength, and that our hearts should converge on the clarity that we all need today as always.

The year 1991, whose last days we are now living, has entered history as the year of astounding political transformations. It has entered our nation's history as a year of a catastrophe that has afflicted us. It has entered our Jordanian history as a special year in which we accomplished our National Charter, thus giving us the opportunity to consummate the democratization process by political pluralism. However, the political efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis, which witnessed intensive movement during the past six months, have led to the convocation of the Madrid conference and our participation in it. What we have sought to realize since 1967 in terms of applying the international legitimacy principles and resolutions to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict stands a good chance of being realized as a result of the successive international developments and the world tendency to resolve all conflicts and differences peacefully.

Our eagerness for peace, but not any peace, and our quest for peace, but not at any price, have always been our target for the sake of realizing a just, comprehensive, and lasting political settlement in this part of the world. In view of the Israeli rejection of Palestinian participation in the peace efforts, we provided the joint delegation an umbrella, which was accepted by our Palestinian brothers. Upon presenting this umbrella, we stressed to them that they alone will undertake talks and discussions on the Palestinian-Israeli issue. The Madrid conference convened and this conference projected the Palestine question as a just, and particularly, legitimate cause. The Palestinian brothers succeeded in presenting their true image to the international community as owners of a right that has been encroached upon, as people who are very sincerely eager to uphold the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy, and as ones striving to rescue the region from catastophes and woes afflicting it for more than four decades.

Our participation in the peace process and in the quest for a full implementation of international legitimacy stems from a firm Jordanian stand based on the principle of the inadmissibility of occupying and keeping others' territories by force. The whole world has known this stand of ours, something which helped us rally support for our stands and win many friends in the West and East alike. Hence, the obstacles some extremists in Israel are placing before the peace process, especially after the transfer of the process to Washington, do not only confirm the soundness of our position on just peace, but also expose those extremists' stand that rejects the international legitimacy principles and resolutions. The opportunity has now come for the international community to know who stands by the side of peace and who insists on keeping the region a field of mines, grudges, and conflicts.

From this premise, we would like to stress an important fact—namely, that peace cannot be separated from Israel's acceptance to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with Resolution 242. This means that rejection of the principle of withdrawal from

the occupied Arab territories is a departure from Resolution 242 and a violation of the principle of the inadmissibility of occupying others' territory by war. To put it simply, withdrawal and peace are inseparable.

We are saying this because Israel is trying to distort the meaning of the land-for-peace equation. It is trying to interpret it as though two parties, each owning a certain commodity, are trading off the two commodities. If the barter does not work, each party goes his own way with his commodity. According to this deceitful outlook, the Israeli leadership tries to establish that the land is the commodity it owns, and that peace is our commodity. But the occupied territories belong to the Arabs, not to Israel, and peace is a right of the Arabs, Israel, and, indeed, the entire world.

When the Israeli leadership raises the slogan of peace for peace, it actually promises not to attack us in return for our abandonment of our occupied Arab territories and our establishment of peace with it—a peace imposed on us through constant Israeli threat. This concept cannot be the basis of peace, because it means Israel wants the negotiations to entrench its illegitimate seizure of the Arab territories, which it occupied by force in flagrant violation of world legitimacy and Security Council Resolution 242.

Brother graduates, esteemed attendants: The world, with its intellectuals, politicians, and observers who are fair and have no personal objectives, is watching our democratic experience with full appreciation, respect, and praise. It will not be long before this march serves as a model for the nations and governments that look forward to practicing a sound and enlightened democratic life. If we are now confident that our democracy is the guarantee of our security and stability in this dear homeland, we all realize, at this stage of our march, and under the shadow of all the circumstances we are undergoing, that a democracy established on sound foundations and deep and firm awareness is a real wealth we care about and work continuously to protect; we depend on such democracy to solve all our problems.

Many in this world highly appreciate us and find in us friends worthy of respect. They support us, and will support us, with their friendships, of which we take pride, and with their help and capabilities, which we need.

This country is proud of its establishments, its citizens, its assets of friends, and its international relations which are the fruits of its rational, balanced, and clear policy. All these constitute its real wealth, which we are going to protect and develop in interest of the homeland and the people with God's help.

During this age, our human family has paid more than it should have for a warm, just, and moral world in which every individual gets his rights, and every people exercises its great pride.

In spite of our awareness of the size of the injustices which befall many people in this world, and that the force still crushes the right, but we are confident that the world of goodness, justice, and equality will eventually be able to overcome all obstacles, enter all corners, and reshape the life of man on this earth which God Almighty bestows on His faithful worshipers.

Brother graduates, esteemed audience: At this stage, we are confronting a host of economic, financial, and social difficulties. The spread of unemployment on the one hand, the citizen's suffering in its standard of living on the other, as well as the size of indebtedness, which is a heavy burden on us, the limited resources we have, and the meager foreign assistance we receive have become our first joint problem as citizens and officials.

No one in our country can unilaterally search for solutions to these problems, or can stay without having a role in this process of searching. The economic reform, which was started and continued by successive governments since the escalation of our economic and financial crisis, is not the responsibility of the executive authority alone; solving our problems is a joint responsibility for all authorities and all citizens.

Our people, who look forward to an honorable life, seek to secure all their needs and to release all their energies in all fields of giving and creativity, are now aware that we are all passing through an era, the difficulty of which everybody can see, and which necessitates that we deal with it with all that we know in ourselves and with what others know about us.

Jordan, which we all love and which we are keen on its dignity and pride at this historical turning point, deserves a pause by us in which we feel that what determination and will we possess, and our spiritual and moral resources are our means for meeting our material requisites. From this great belief we go ahead in confronting the difficult circumstances we are experiencing, in order to emphasize, through practice, that these circumstances are unable to push us one step backward, or even to the mere thinking that our bellies become fuller than our minds, or higher than our heads.

We will remain on this land, faithful to the message of the fathers and forefathers who were not defeated by their difficult suffering, were not changed by their hard circumstances, and kept their heads high, their consciences pure, and their arms able to draw water from the sand and grass from the rocks, because it is not only bread that keeps man alive, for with only a little bread and lots of pride he can win and be distinguished. We have always been like this in Jordan. From this very moment we have to begin a cycle of steadfastness and confrontation, because the alternative is to become different than what we are, and to pay a dear price that those who have come before us on the same path did not accept to pay and the coming generations will not accept to pay.

Brother graduates, esteemed audience: I congratulate you again and wish you success and all the best. I pray that God Almighty will help us to shoulder the responsibility and carry out the duty for that which is in the

interest of the homeland and the nation. We do not ask for help and do not seek satisfaction of any other than Him, until the objectives are realized with our heads high. May God grant you success and take care of you, and peace be upon you.

More on French Foreign Minister's Amman Visit

Prime Minister, Dumas Confer 19 Dec

JN1912172791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office this morning French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and discussed Jordanian-French relations. The foreign minister, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the finance minister, and the planning minister attended the meeting.

During the meeting, his excellency the prime minister expressed the government's appreciation for France's positions and its support for Jordan on various levels. He stressed Jordan's eagerness to promote relations between the two countries in all political, economic, and cultural areas.

The two sides also reviewed current peace efforts, and his excellency the prime minister stressed that Jordan was committed to working to reach a just and honorable settlement in the region. He then referred to the obstacles being placed by the Israeli side, as well as maneuvers aimed at blocking these efforts.

The prime minister also stressed Jordan's determination to enable the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations to tackle Palestinian affairs along their own track in the peace process.

For his part, Dumas stressed the importance France is attaching to the close friendly relations with Jordan. Dumas and Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir held talks at the Foreign Ministry and then held a news conference.

'Satisfaction' Over 'Identical' Views

JN1912151691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Jordanian and French sides held a round of bilateral talks this morning. The Jordanian side was led by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, while the French side was led by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

During the session, the two sides conducted an extensive review of Jordanian-French relations and the peace process. The two ministers expressed great satisfaction over the two countries' identical views on the various issues they raised.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir stressed the importance Jordan attaches to the basic role of Europe in general, France in particular, in the peace process. For his part, Mr. Dumas emphasized France's determination to effectively participate in the coming phases of peace efforts.

The Jordanian and French sides agreed to continue consultations and discuss matters of mutual concern.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir held a press conference following the French minister's meetings with senior Jordanian officials.

Following are excerpts from a press conference conducted by the two ministers. Mr. Dumas said:

[Begin Dumas recording in French with superimposed translation into Arabic] The people among you who are following developments—and I am sure there are many—know that I came to Amman last June. This shows the strong and close relations with Jordan. My visit to Amman was also preceded by His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Paris last March. We hope that his majesty the king will soon visit Paris again. I say all of this to stress the good relations between the two countries that are being manifested in these intensive mutual visits. We began this trip with a visit to his majesty the king, and we had an in-depth working meeting with his majesty. His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and his excellency the foreign minister, attended our meeting. The meeting was also attended by his majesty's assistants and members of the French delegation.

The peace process and the current talks in Washington were central to the talks we held yesterday, as well as today with the foreign minister and the prime minister. Concerning this topic, which we broached on three different occasions, I would like to say that France and Jordan regret the slow pace of these negotiations and regret the fact that the talks are being hindered by procedural issues. However, these procedural difficulties indicate substantive difficulties as well.

France and Jordan also hope that the (?opposition) to these negotiations would soon give room to a new momentum and a new push to these negotiations to make them achieve the progress that has not been noticed so far.

During the working luncheon, as well as the meeting before it, we discussed the current situation in Iraq and the fate of the Iraqi people since the recent crisis. We also discussed bilateral relations, the current situation in Jordan, and the Islamic Conference Organization's meeting in Dakar and Jordan's participation in that conference, led by His Majesty King Husayn.

After the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn also honored me by bestowing on me a high medal, the Jordanian al-Kawkab Medal. This morning, I was also honored by meeting with His Excellency Foreign Minister Abu-Jabir. We discussed Europe's role in the peace process, as well as bilateral relations, particularly the teaching of French in Jordan. We also noted France's possible

participation in laying down the foundations of the great national museum in Jordan, as well as mutual accreditation of academic degrees in our two countries.

His excellency the foreign minister also later received the French delegation, and the meeting was expanded to include the foreign minister, the finance minister, the planning minister, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs. [end recording]

At a news conference he gave after welcoming the French foreign minister, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said:

[Begin Abu-Jabir recording] I welcome him once again and say that during our talks last night and today, we discussed the distinguished, friendly, and old Jordanian-French relations, which have led to good economic, cultural, intellectual, and political ties since the beginning of the fifties. They also promoted personal friendship between His Majesty King Husayn and the presidents of France, beginning with President Charles de Gaulle. There is also a close friendship between his majesty the king and President Fracois Mitterrand, whom we greatly respect and appreciate.

During my conversation with his excellency the minister, I concentrated on a number of issues, but now I would like to concentrate on two issues: The first is Jordan's economic crisis. You have heard the minister's statement on aid, which France has promised to extend to Jordan. The economic crisis increased after the Gulf crisis and the return of 300,000 new expatriates to Jordan. The second event, which Jordan is experiencing, is the restoration of the democratic life and the emergence of new forces and energies in the Jordanian arena that have to be dealt with. There is also a third issue or event, which is of interest to Jordan in particular and to the region, the world, and the peace conference and its repercussions in general. In fact, we concentrated on the peace conference to a large extent. France, through its foreign minister, demonstrated strong interest in this issue as well as its desire to play a role, which we have requested in the peace efforts.

We also reviewed the principles of Jordan's position, and perhaps, the Arab position, which is based on international legitimacy and law, UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and the exchange of land for peace. We also concentrated on the need to withdraw from Jerusalem and grant the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. We concentrated on these issues. His excellency the minister showed every understanding of these Jordanian-Arab bases. We also tackled the possibility of European initiative to promote the peace process in the right direction, in view of the good relationship France maintains with not only the Jordanian, the Palestinian, and the Arab sides, but also with the other side. [end recording]

Dumas on Amman's Role in Peace Process

JN1912161091 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met this morning with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir. Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Dumas held a news conference later, and our reporter 'Ali Hamati was there and gave us the following report:

[Begin recording] [Hamati] After the press conference, which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel between Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, and Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Jordanian foreign minister, I had the opportunity to ask Mr. Dumas some questions.

Mr. Minister, you have been emphasizing the importance and the depth of relations between Jordan and France. What makes Jordan very important to France, and what role would you like to see Jordan playing in the so-called new world order? [Dumas' reply is not heard; Hamati continues by paraphrasing the French Foreign Minister's response]

The Minister answered: Definitely, Jordan is pla; 'ng a very major role in the current peace efforts, being the major delegation under which Palestinians are negotiating with the Israelis. He said that as a matter of fact, the subjects that will be discussed between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations are of extreme importance and deep substance.

Mr. Dumas said Jordan will also be a major element of stability in the region, especially that the people of Jordan are exercising democracy and taking part in ruling their country. He added that such a country is the kind that France would enhance relations with.

In a second question, I asked Mr. Roland Dumas: Mr. Minister you will be attending a NATO meeting due today in Brussels, what shape or form would you give such a meeting, especially after the downfall of the Soviet Union? Correct me if I am mistaken.

[Dumas in French with superimposed translation into English] This is a meeting that will include Eastern European countries. It is a very important meeting, because it is the first of its kind. It comes at an historical moment when new countries are gaining their independence, countries that were part of the Soviet Union. The NATO meeting will deal with the recognition of such republics, and we the 16 members of NATO will discuss and hear the representatives of these republics. The position of France is clear, and it is a part of the 12 EC nations. We and our partners have adopted a regular program which includes, first: Continuing to adopt mutual policies among the 12 EC countries instead of having an independent policy for each country. Second:

The principle of self-determination for all peoples of the world and the diplomatic recognition of their sovereign states.

[Hamati] Mr. Dumas, How would you assess the outcome of the Maastricht summit from a French point of view. I mean, would you call it a British victory as the British prime minister phrases it? [Again, Dumas' reply is not heard and Hamati paraphrases the response]

The French minister answered that this was a victory for Europe and the European Community since the EC has gone a long step forward. The European Community is already an economic reality of which politics was not a main concern.

One last question. Now that the United States of America seems to be the sole superpower in the world, how would you foresee such relations with the one united Europe, I mean the rivalry or the competition between the one united Europe and the United States, in terms of the coming century? [Hamati paraphrases Dumas' response]

The French minister answered that Europeans have very good relations with the United States since they are in the same alliance and defend the same principles of democracy. He added that there is no risk of confrontation, but rather a reality of aspirations for a mutual cooperation which holds the seeds of fraternity for the benefit of liberty and justice in the world. However, the French foreign minister, who was scheduled to go to Syria today, has canceled his trip to Syria and is going back home this evening. [end recording]

Council Denies Calling For End to Iraqi Embargo

JN1912105991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Dec 91 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sirin Halasah]

[Text] Amman—The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has called on the Arab World to help Iraq by putting an immediate end to the "suffering" of the Iraqi people caused by the U.N. trade embargo.

However, the council's call does not urge an end to the embargo itself, the council Secretary General Hasan Ibrahim, said.

Contradicting an article that appeared in the Arabic newspaper al-Ra'y Tuesday, the only Jordanian paper to carry the report, Mr. Ibrahim said the call was only meant to help alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people.

"We did not call for lifting the sanctions against Iraq, we simply called for the easing of the suffering of the Iraqi people," Mr. Ibrahim said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

The council resolution, dated Dec. 5, urged Arab countries to "take necessary steps to release frozen Iraqi assets" so that Iraq could use it to buy much needed food, medicine and other basic requirements for its people.

It also appealed to the international community to put an end to the economic boycott against Iraq, especially those pertaining to humanitarian needs such as food, medicine and other necessities. The decision also called on Arab countries to "deal commercially with Iraq in every aspect that would enhance the easing of suffering of the Iraqi people."

Mr. Ibrahim insisted that the decision did not call directly for the lifting of sanctions and indicated that the council's call did not include in any of its clauses the word "sanctions."

"We took special care in wording the decision," Mr. Ibrahim said. "We deliberated for almost three days to come up with the decision, making sure that the word 'sanctions' is not mentioned."

Mr. Ibrahim said that the reason the word "sanctions" was omitted in the council's decision was because the issue was "a sensitive one."

The council includes Syria and Egypt, which took part in the U.S.-led campaign to eject Iraq from Kuwait. In addition, Jordan and nine other countries make up the CAEU.

"If you carefully read the drafted decision you would see that the word 'sanctions' is absent and instead the words 'easing the suffering of the Iraqi people' are specially mentioned," Mr. Ibrahim said.

On Tuesday, Iraq issued a statement saying 80,000 of its children have died because of shortages in food and medicine caused by the U.N. sanctions, in effect since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The United States and its Western allies have said that the embargo will not be lifted while President Saddam Husayn remains in power in Iraq.

Israeli Force 'Abducted' Journalist, Others

NC2012084591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] An Israeli force has abducted a number of people at a checkpoint which it established on the road between Jibshit and 'Adshit in the south. The Israeli force was brought in by one of the helicopter aircraft which flew over al-Nabatiyah area throughout the night last night.

The force established the checkpoint in the (al-Mistrah) area at 2230 yesterday and closed the road with stones. The force then began stopping and searching cars. NNA correspondent Jamil Shawqi Fahs happened to be passing in his car, accompanied by Kamil al-'Abd Nabhal. The Israeli force stopped them, asked them to step out, and tied them in chains together with Muhammad Zahhur from Yuhmur, Muhammad al-Ghul from al-Zrariyah, and four others from Ansar. They were all taken, tied in chains, to a deserted room in the area. The Israeli force then put al-Ghul and Nabhal on a helicopter and took them to the occupied territories and kept the others inside the deserted room. They were found at 0830 today by a number of residents, who untied them.

Hizballah Positions in Western al-Biqa' Shelled

NC2012074491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Shells were fired from the border strip last night at Hizballah positions in the Mashgharah area of western al-Biqa'. Twelve 155-mm shells fell on the area over a 30-minute period.

Al-Luwayzah and Mlita earlier came under artillery fire from positions in the border strip. Shells fell at the rate of one every minute.

A joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army patrol has raked the area after being ambushed yesterday morning on the al-Jarmaq-Kafr Rumman road.

Resistance Attacks Israeli, Lahdist Positions

NC1912124391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] A resistance group ambushed and clashed with a joint Israeli-Lahdist infantry patrol on the al-Jarmaq-Kafr Rumman road at 0615 today. At 0700 about 15 soldiers were seen raking the area with machine gun fire, amid a siege imposed on the area by the Israeli forces.

At 0230 today, another resistance group attacked an Israeli enemy position in al-Qantarah and clashed with the guards for 10 minutes.

Another resistance group launched an attack against an Israeli position on 'Alman hill at 2200 yesterday, using rockets and machine guns. The clash lasted about 15 minutes. Casualties could not be determined because of the security cordon imposed by the occupation forces in the area.

In another development, security sources in the south reported tension among armed elements in Khirbat Silm. The Irish UN contingent deployed patrols in the village.

Islamic Resistance Claims Ambush of Israeli Patrol

LD2012114591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] In a statement, the Islamic Resistance Movement has claimed responsibility for the ambush of a Zionist patrol in the occupied zone of southern Lebanon. The statement says in part that one of the mojahedin groups of the Islamic Resistance movement attacked a Zionist personnel carrier near Jarmaq village in the border strip last night. All the occupants of the vehicle were killed or wounded. The carrier was completely destroyed.

Prime Minister Receives Fatah Delegation

NC1912133791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister met a delegation from Fatah—The Revolutionary Council today headed by Walid Khalid, who said after the meeting that discussions dealt with the political situation and its repercussions on the Palestinian people.

Khalid adds: We exchanged viewpoints regarding the Palestinians in Lebanon and we expressed our hope that the discussions of the civil and social rights of the Palestinian people will resume.

'Argument' Between al-Hirawi, Speaker Reported

NC2012094591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] The argument about the two laws on employee separation compensation, appointing municipal councils, and efforts to deal with the matter are continuing on more than one level to avoid a confrontation—albeit democratic—between the president and the Chamber of Deputies speaker.

Sources close to President Ilyas al-Hirawi have affirmed that he will not sign a law that is likely to speed up the bankruptcy of the treasury. Al-Hirawi met yesterday with a number of deputies and discussed this issue with them. Those deputies have cited him as saying that the decision to return the two bills was not directed against the Chamber of Deputies or Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. It was purely in the interest of the people. President al-Hirawi affirmed that he is not going to enter into a constitutional argument with anyone, because the government places the interests of the people and the treasury above all others, away from sensitivities and personal considerations and political conflicts, and taking into consideration that the media exaggerate stories.

Sources close to al-Husayni have cited him as saying that he does not see any dispute among the three state leaders, who, when they meet, do so to coordinate and not to make decisions. He emphasized the need to improve political performance as demanded by the parliamentary democratic system.

Al-Husayni met yesterday with Ministers 'Abdallah al-Amin and Albert Mansur to discuss the status of the two laws.

Al-Asad Reportedly Postponed Dumas Visit

LD1912121191 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] There is a hitch in Roland Dumas' current trip to the Middle East: The French minister of foreign affairs arrived yesterday in Amman, Jordan, where he was scheduled to stop over for just a few hours, with plans to continue on to Damascus, Syria, today to meet President Hafiz al-Asad.

Yesterday evening, however, an envoy from the Syrian president came to inform Roland Dumas that his visit to Syria had been postponed. Both sides maintain that it is only a problem of schedules, specifically that the Syrian president's agenda would not allow him to receive Roland Dumas for as long as he would have liked. This reason has made certain people shake their heads; the trip, naturally, had been finalized several days ago, and at that time the timetables of the two men seemed perfectly coordinated.

So, Ralph Pinto, one could well think that there are other reasons for the postponement of this French-Syrian meeting.

[France-Inter reporter Ralph Pinto reporting from Amman] The date for the trip to Damascus will be set soon; that is a promise, and it will be effected rapidly. In the end the same reason was given to explain the missed meeting: a problem with the schedule of activities on the French side and on the Syrian side. The visit, however, had been scheduled for a good 10 days.

The Syrian president has again become the sort of person the West, and primarily the Americans, can associate with; there are many things, however, for Damascus and Paris to discuss. Roland Dumas recently went to Beirut to discuss the Lebanese, who also have the right to take part in elections. He also announced that in Damascus he would raise the mystery of the Nazi Alois Brunner. He was also to have departed for Damascus after a stop in Amman, Jordan: Does newly reelected President al-Asad perhaps want a special trip just for himself? Does he perhaps also want to play a little hard to get?

He is not alone in the world. There is another conference in Brussels tomorrow which is important for other reasons: It is a meeting among NATO and the former Eastern bloc members, and there is the new country of Gorbachev to build. That is a priority.

Al-Shar' Briefs Ba'th Meeting on Various Issues

JN1912093191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus—The central section of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held its annual meeting this evening. The comrade secretary and members of the command of the Damascus Ba'th Party branch attended the meeting. The foreign minister, comrade Faruq al-Shar', presented a briefing on the most important current Arab and international events and developments in light of the current world changes, and on the size, extent, and dimensions of these developments. Al-Shar' affirmed that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad is solid and strong thanks to its national unity and cohesiveness. He said the recent popular festivals on the occasion of renewing allegiance to President Hafiz al-Asad for a new constitutional term testify to Syria's principled and constant national, pan-Arab stands, and assert its militant march to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and international legitimacy.

Ba'th Official Meets PNSF, Iraqi Communist Leaders

JN1912203491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 Dec (SANA)—'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF]. Their talks dealt with the Israeli occupation forces' practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territory, and the march toward peace.

Al-Ahmar also received 'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party, who was accompanied by Fakhri Karim. The talks dealt with the situation in Iraq and the continuous suffering of its people as a result of the Iraqi regime's practices.

Arabs 'Not Surprised' by Israeli 'Maneuvering'

JN1912184291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arabs were not surprised by the results of the Washington talks in terms of the Israeli negotiators' maneuvering, refusal to discuss the crux of the peace process, and wasting time on issues that have nothing to do with the basis of the conflict. This is because they are experienced in the ways of Israeli leaders, their way of thinking, and what they want and plan. Certainly, the Arabs were not surprised, yet the Israeli position has disappointed many in Europe and America and, at the same time, enlightened many others. The proof is that an opinion poll, conducted by the well-known newspaper WALL STREET JOURNAL, shows that 41 percent of U.S. citizens consider Israel to be an obstacle to peace. The newspaper said that the opinion poll confirms an important change in American public opinion against Israel. The Arab delegations spent about three weeks in Washington, waiting for the Israeli side during the first five days. No sooner had the negations begun when the Israelis refused to hold independent talks with the Palestinian delegation. However, this delegation, along with the Jordanian delegation, were not able, throughout two full weeks, to hold a single

session of talks with the Israeli delegation, because the latter wasted precious time on arguments on whether to negotiate in one or two rooms. The truth is that the Israeli delegation, acting on direct orders from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, received clear instructions to procrastinate and prevaricate, and not to sit with the Palestinians face to face so that this could not be construed as recognition of the Palestinian people's existence. This deceptive position caused astonishment throughout the world. If the Israeli side was unable to create procedural issues during talks with the Syrian delegation, it has continuously avoided discussion on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and refused to discuss the requirements of the peace process. In open statements and through official stands, the head of the Syrian delegation to the Washington talks expressed Syria's certain readiness to meet its obligations vis-a-vis a resolution on a just and comprehensive peace. However, the Israeli side consistently refused, over two full weeks, to discuss the issue of withdrawal from the Golan or the other occupied Arab territories. Its only concern was to cast doubts, waste time, and raise issues that have nothing to do with the essence of the subject. For example, it claimed that the Golan has always been used as a springboard for launching Syrian attacks on Zionist settlements. Our delegation to the talks refuted these claims when it presented the Israeli side with hundreds of condemnations issued by the UN Security Council, regarding the Israeli forces' attacks on cities and villages in the Golan.

The results of the talks with the Israeli side were no better than those of the Lebanese-Israeli talks. The Israeli delegation refused to abide by the implementation of Resolution 425, and tried to dictate political stands on Lebanon to undermine its sovereignty and independence.

It is clear that the Israelis came to Washington against their will, with the objective of torpedoing the peace process and aborting U.S. efforts. Their main concern was to move the venue of the talks away from Washington. However, have they been able to deceive global public opinion? Certainly not. The Arabs have won this round of talks. The Arabs won it in the sense that they won in the eyes of world public opinion, and exposed to the entire world the true Zionist claims and Israel's chronic hostility toward peace. For more than 40 years the enemy has been expressing its readiness to achieve peace with the Arabs, whenever and wherever the Arabs choose. Today, Israel is rejecting both the venue and time for such talks. In fact, it is rejecting peace in its entirety. This stand is not foreign to hostile and racist Zionists, whose main concern is to launch wars and to plan for new wars so as to achieve their expansionist objectives, to seize Arab resources, and to establish greater Israel in the region.

Syria has always warned against entanglement in Israel's whirlpools and false accusations. It has warned the Arabs and the international community. In light of this, the repealing of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, as a result of certain pressures, was a blow to peace. It encouraged Israel to exceed all limits in coercing the Palestinian people, seizing their lands, revolting against the UN Security Council resolution, and rejecting international legitimacy. The Arabs, who abide by the principles of international legitimacy, have given all that they could for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace. They have also stressed and are still stressing that they will continue with the peace process. They have provided the entire world with new proof of their credibility on working for peace, and exposed Israel's true nature, which is hostile to this peace. Based on this situation—which is no longer a secret to anyone in the world—the world, particularly the United States, which committed itself to implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 and to achieving a just and comprehensive settlement based on the principle of land for peace, should put an end to Israel's rebellion, rejection of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and violations of international law, and use all its weight in favor of a just peace; one that restores to the Arabs their territories and to the Palestinian people their rights, and entrenches international principles and laws.

Afghanistan

Fuel Shortage Forces Halt to Domestic Flights

BK1912121891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 19 (AFP)—A shortage of aviation fuel has forced the Afghan Government to halt all its domestic flights, stranding thousands of passengers in three major cities, aviation sources said Thursday.

Domestic flights between Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif were suspended some 20 days ago, but the government had shied away from formally announcing fuel shortages as a cause of the disruption, they said.

"All the flights have been suspended as there is no aviation fuel in Kabul or elsewhere in Afghanistan," a Civil Aviation Ministry source said.

Indian Airlines officials here confirmed the disruption, the first since the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1989, and said international flights of Afghan Ariana Airlines were operating on fuel bought abroad.

The sources said fear of public panic had prompted Kabul not to admit the fuel shortages in Afghanistan, which stopped receiving combat fuel from its Soviet mentors Sunday, a fortnight ahead of a planned halt to military shipments.

It is virtually impossible to travel from Kabul to Herat by road because of the war between the Kabul government and mojahedin rebels, although traders often journey across land routes to the southern city of Kandahar.

Diplomats said the government was conserving aviation fuel for military needs.

The government of President Najibollah, heavily dependent on mechanised forces, is fighting low-key but expensive battles in the provinces of Ghowr, Paktia and Zabol.

Moscow promised rebel factions last month that it would halt deliveries of fuel meant for combat, as well as arms, in line with a September agreement with Washington to end superpower engagement in the Afghan conflict.

Russia's Rutskoy Meets Mojahedin Members in Tehra

Assails War, Backs Islamic Rule

NC2012071191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation, met in Tehran yesterday with the spokesman and some members of the coordination committee of the combatant groups in western Afghanistan and discussed the exchange of prisoners.

During this meeting, Rutskoy criticized the former Soviet Government for attacking Afghanistan and said: Yeltsin and I support the formation of Islamic rule in Afghanistan. He added: We have carried out the contents of the joint statement that was signed in Moscow with leaders of the Afghan mojahedin, and we have ceased sending arms and fuel for military equipment to the Afghan regime. We now want the sides involved to take action in releasing prisoners.

During this meeting, Qazi 'Abdolrahim Kushki, spokesman for the coordination committee of the combatant groups in western Afghanistan, expressed satisfaction over the developments in the Soviet Union and said: During the occupation of Afghanistan, the people lost 1.5 million martyrs, and 500,000 were maimed or are missing in action. Extensive damage also was inflicted on their country. He added: We are sure that Moscow's nonsupport for Najib's regime will pave the way for the Muslims to gain power, and we hope this process will continue.

The spokesman for the coordination committee also said: We have treated your prisoners according to Islamic and humanitarian laws, and we agree that they should return to their country on the condition that you also will cooperate in the release of our prisoners, who are being held by the Kabul regime.

Mojahedin Prepare for Rutskoy Islamabad Talks

BK2012022891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0207 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (AFP)—Mojahedin leaders, preparing for talks here Saturday with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, are hammering out a formula to resolve the Afghan conflict by transferring power to an Islamic council.

After three days of intensive disussions aimed at presenting a unified stance, a transition formula has been prepared by a nine-member commission for endorsement Friday by party chiefs, resistance sources said.

It provides for an Islamic shura (council), comprising in part six representatives each from the parties based in Iran and Pakistan to work as a parliament, the sources said.

In addition to the parliament, the proposal envisages a leadership council, made up of factional chiefs and charged with selecting an interim head of state, they said, adding that the Islamic shura would be empowered to remove the president.

Rutskoy flew into Lahore from Tehran late Thursday.

Sources said his talks Saturday with mojahedin leaders would focus primarily on the release of an estimated 50 Soviet prisoners of war (POWs) held by Pakistan-based factions, as well as proposals for an interim administration in Afghanistan.

The Russian leader wants the POW issue to be treated on humanitarian grounds and a moderate rebel group has

suggested releasing two to four soldiers as a token gesture, depending on the outcome of Saturday's talks.

Afghan leaders are insisting on swapping the Soviet POWs for thousands of mojahedin being held by the Kabul regime. A decision on the issue could be announced at a press conference Rutskoy is scheduled to give before leaving for Kabul on Sunday, the sources said.

The mojahedin party chiefs have agreed not to join the transitional government, which is to remain in office for a maximum of one year prior to the holding of elections, the sources said.

According to the draft formula, the Islamic shura will chose a cabinet, confirmation of which will rest with the leadership council, the sources said.

Initially, the Islamic shura is to be composed of 87 members, expanding to 100 at a later date.

The breakdown of seats sees six members from each of the seven Pakistan-based Sunni parties and six each from two Shiite alliances operating from Iran.

Six seats each are to be given to three groups representing ulema (religious scholars), mojahedin field commanders and tribal elders, while three splinter groups will get two seats each.

In what appears to be a move to accomodate the Kabul side, the formula proposes six seats in the shura for "good Muslims", a mojahedin term used to describe non-party associates of President Najibollah's regime.

It also suggests earmarking three seats to represent Afghans living in exile in Europe and Western countries.

An important radical guerrilla leader, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, who along with two other fundamentalist chiefs, 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf and Yunes Khales, boycotted initial meetings in Moscow last month, is expected to attend Saturday's talks, his party sources said.

Informed Pakistani sources said the draft formula appeared "too complicated to work" and they did not rule out the possibility of direct talks between the mojahedin and the Kabul regime if the current process collapsed.

Hezbe-E Eslami Head on Obstacles to Peace

PM1812120691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 18 Dec 91 p 4

[Interview with Hezbe-e Eslami deputy commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud by Remi Favret in Taloqan, Afghanistan; date not given]

[Text] [Favret] What do you consider to be the main obstacles to a settlement of the Afghan crisis?

[Mas'ud] The very existence of the Kabul regime.

[Favret] Do you still believe in a military solution?

[Mas'ud] The government's defeats at Khowst and Khodjeghar [place-name as published] have shown that it is more vulnerable than it seems. Yes, a political solution is possible, but that is not the only kind of solution. Nobody can say that the war has reached an impasse. If it carries on this way, day after day, the government will be weakened.

[Favret] What conditions do you demand for a political settlement?

[Mas'ud] The mojahedin have accepted the principle of a transitional government comprising neither members of the Kabul regime nor the mojahedin, but rather a third force. This is a major step toward peace. Our only condition is that the transitional government be composed of people not connected with the Watan Party. We accept neutral figures, whether from Kabul, from the refugee camps, from mojahedin-controlled areas, or in exile.

[Favret] Do you consider the present prime minister, Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, to be a neutral figure?

[Mas'ud] Although he claims to be independent of the Watan Party, he served the Soviets for years and his hands were stained with blood when he was governor of Herat.

[Favret] What about former King Zaher Shah?

[Mas'ud] The mojahedin are not united on this point. For my part, I think that whoever heads the transitional government must meet the following conditions: enjoy the confidence of a majority of Afghans, be competent, and have authority and energy. The king meets none of these.

It is pointless to name individuals at this stage. We are still too far away from an agreement on the transition mechanism. This is the most important thing. The question of individuals will come later.

[Favret] President Najibollah is stepping up his political initiatives, while the mojahedin seem paralyzed. Is this not dangerous?

[Mas'ud] Najib plays with words. One day he announces that he wants to maintain control of the Army, another day he insists on being a member of the government, and another day he wants nothing less than to be president. True, he does exploit the mojahedin's weakness, but in so doing he is resolving nothing; he is happy just to gain time.

[Favret] You are demanding his departure. Do you think that this departure should precede the start of negotiations or rather be their result?

[Mas'ud] Najibollah must say that he accepts a transitional government responsible for organizing elections and comprising neither the Watan Party nor the mojahedin. Once he has done that, it will all be easy.

[Favret] Why not negotiate with him?

[Mas'ud] Because it is pointless. This system was created and is still supported by the Soviet Union. It is not

authorized to make its own decisions. Direct negotiations with the Soviets, or any process under UN auspices, would be more effective.

Your party's chairman, Dr. Rabbani, is just back from Moscow. Are you pleased with what he achieved?

[Mas'ud] It is in the right direction. We want to see peace prevail in Afghanistan, and that depends on a dialogue with those who brought the war here.

[Favret] Are you yourselves in contact with the Soviets, as people say?

[Mas'ud] That is entirely untrue. They have sought contacts, which we have refused. As long as they insist on maintaining the Kabul regime as a basis for any talks, there is no point in talking with them.

[Favret] So do you not think that the USSR has changed?

[Mas'ud] Unfortunately, not as far as Afghanistan is concerned. We had some hopes after the failed coup d'etat, but they did not materialize. The emergence of independent republics will perhaps eventually force the Union to revise its policy on Afghanistan...

[Favret] The USSR and the United States have agreed to stop arms supplies to the two camps starting 31 December. What changes will this mean for you?

[Mas'ud] Until the basic problem is resolved, there is no point in stopping arms supplies. In fact, its only effect will be to prolong the war, instead of stopping it. This is because I do not believe that Najibollah honestly intends to leave, and military pressure must be maintained to persuade him to do so.

In view of what is happening in the Soviet Union at the moment, Moscow could not in any case have continued its support for the Kabul regime for long. Continued aid to the mojahedin would have led to a rapid military conclusion. Najib would have been obliged to acknowledge defeat and leave. Instead of that, he is playing for time. Why did the West accept this without the slightest concession in return?

[Favret] Do you think this is a mistake on the part of the United States or a change of policy?

[Mas'ud] It is a big mistake, similar to that which the Americans made by signing the Geneva accords. At that time the Soviets would have been forced to leave Afghanistan in any case. The West gave them a guarantee while agreeing to sign something that granted it nothing.

I ask the United States: What did you gain from signing that "asymmetrical" agreement on weapons with the Soviets? An end to the war in Afghanistan? No. An assurance that the Soviets will stop supporting the regime? No. In fact, the Americans lost something. If they had continued arms supplies, they could have influenced the mojahedin's decisions. Now all that has ended.

[Favret] Do you not see in the U.S. decision a certain frustration with the complete political incompetence of the mojahedin parties in exile in Peshawar?

[Mas'ud] The political activity of the government in exile certainly is very weak, and we are the first to complain about it. But it is not the parties in Peshawar that are waging the war. The war is being fought here, inside the country. If we were in a military impasse, the United States could have justified stopping arms supplies. But this is not the case. In my opinion, political paralysis is not an acceptable reason.

Islamic Unity Party Member on Moscow Talks

NC1712070591 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Dec 91 p 11

[Report on interview with Yusef Va'ezi, member of the Islamic Unity Party of the Afghanistan Central Council, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] We initially sought Va'ezi's opinions on the recent Moscow talks, and he said: "The talks in Moscow were not so ideal. The Soviets still have not displayed the necessary goodwill. They did not mention the issue of reparations and they only stated that the Soviet Union would participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. That is not enough.

"They did not say anything about removing the Kabul regime. The assistance to that regime continues to pour in. It appears that the Soviets favor preserving Najibollah's involvement in the future of Afghanistan.

"The Soviets came here and endeavored to very cleverly pave the way for the preliminaries of the issue. Their plan was to state that any interference on our part to remove Najibollah (who is an Afghan) would be tantamount to interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs!

"Even now the Soviet experts are in Kabul to provide support for the Kabul regime, and in practice, we do not see any signs of goodwill on the part of the Kabul regime.

"The only hopeful aspect of these talks was the raising of the transitional government issue, with which we concurred. The date for the next talks, however, has not been specified. Rabbani and Hekmatyar have spoken to the Soviet ambassador in Pakistan about this matter."

In answer to a question on what measures the mojahedin groups have taken to exclude agents of the Kabul regime from a decisive role in a transitional government, Va'ezi said: "The people will not accept communists. The mojahedin control various areas. Afghanistan has a rural composition and the people are mostly villagers. The government in Kabul does not have a strong presence in the country. Its influence is seen today only in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif, and Qandahar.

"On the other hand, the Central Council, which is based in Bamiyan, has announced that those who have collaborated with the government and have not committed any

major crimes will be accepted and treated as any other normal citizen, if they declare their penitence for their past transgressions."

When asked his assessment of Zaher Shah's role in Afghanistan's future, Va'ezi said: "Until now, Najibollah has many times mentioned his support for Zaher Shah and recently also affirmed this support when an unsuccessful assassination attempt was made against Zaher Shah. This is while the Kabul regime had been directly responsible for revoking Zaher Shah's citizenship.

"The danger of Zaher Shah assuming power, however, is a serious matter. Because the UN plan stipulates that a neutral party should take power in Afghanistan, this issue has assumed serious dimensions."

Va'ezi answered our correspondent's question on how relations stand between the Islamic Unity Party and the Peshawar-based groups by saying: "Our relations with Peshawar are proper,and there is complete coordination and a unanimity of opinions. We do have differences, however, with Sayyaf, Khales, and Hekmatyar.

"Hekmatyar is not opposed to the principle of talks but rather to the venue of the talks. Yunes Khales and Sayyaf basically are opposed to the principle of talks."

Replying to a question on the reason for the latter two persons' view, Va'ezi said: "These issues have their roots in Afghanistan, and they should be asked what their reasons are for this view."

Va'ezi was asked: "Can you give our readers any information on the famine conditions in the Shiite-inhabited areas?" He said: "Agriculture in these areas has suffered due to the recent 'frost' and the 'red pestilence'. Floods in areas such as Bamiyan and Oruzgan and so on forced some people to migrate to Iran, and some are still on the way. Nearly four months have since passed, and we have seen minimal international assistance in this regard.

"Here I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its timely and swift assistance, and I hope that this process of assistance to hardship-stricken people will continue. Iran's assistance made a favorable impression on the people of these areas, and this has aroused the recent indignation of the Western media."

Answering our correspondent's question on his views regarding the Kabul regime's announcement concerning transporting relief goods from Kabul to the affected areas in Bamiyan, Va'ezi said: "The Iranian Government dropped relief goods from its aircraft because there was no proper runway. In view of the important and effective feedback from this incident, the Kabul government announced that it had sent the relief goods and would continue to do so. In this manner, it attempted to overshadow Iran's good deed, but it was unsuccessful."

In conclusion, Va'ezi was asked about the latest situation concerning the mojahedin forces and said: "The Islamic Unity Party recently carried out operations in Dowlatabad and Chamtal on 14 November in the northeastern region, in which 50 government soldiers were killed. The Muslim mojahedin captured 100 light weapons, seven military vehicles, and one armored vehicle with all its equipment."

Mojahedin Fire Four Missiles at Kabul 19 Dec

LD1912165991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The armed opposition groups today fired four surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul city. Two of them landed in residential sections and caused the martyrdom of an innocent child. BAKHTAR's military section reported that these missiles landed on the fourth, 10th, and 11th wards of the city and caused material losses.

Opposition Fires Missiles at Paktia Residences

LD1912141591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Armed opposition groups yesterday fired surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in Paktia Province. One person was martyred and three were wounded. A number of houses were destroyed or damaged.

Armed forces units in the province subjected the armed opposition groups to retaliatory blows and inflicted heavy losses on them. Several pieces of heavy and light weapons and their strongholds were destroyed.

Government Forces Destroy 'Stinger' Unit

LD1912132891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Armed opposition groups disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Shahrak District, Ghowr Province, were subjected to retaliatory attacks by the armed forces.

BIA's military section reports that as a result of these attacks, a number of the armed groups were killed, and one Stinger unit, a rocket launcher, and a quantity of light and heavy ammunition were destroyed. Two members of the groups, along with a rocket launcher and a quantity of ammunition, were captured.

Rebel Groups Seek Amnesty With Government

LD2012055891 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 19, BAKHTAR—Four armed opposition groups composed of 1,310 rpt 1,310 men stopped war activities against the people's sovereignty and joined the national reconciliation policy (NRP) in the Qeysar District, Faryab Province, north of Afghanistan today.

A BAKHTAR reporter reported that the groups were warmly welcomed by the state authorities and a large number of the residents of this province. Their joining to the NRP was applauded.

The heads of the groups on behalf of their men, pledged to do their best for the immediate cessation of war and ensurance of peace in the country.

The groups were earlier organised in the composition of Jam'iyat [-e Eslami] and Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] formations were armed with heavy and light munitions.

Iran

Velayati on Recognizing Soviet Republics

LD1912231691 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1637 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent on 19 December in the studio from the "Political Roundtable" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Welcome to the program, Dr. Velayati. You participated in both the foreign ministerial and head of state sessions of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit. What are your views on the outcome of the sessions? To what extent did the Islamic Republic reach its objectives in the summit?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You are aware that during the meeting of the ICO foreign ministers in Istanbul the world's recent developments and the new world order were assessed through Iran's, and other Islamic nation's, initiatives. Whether we agree with this phrase [new world order] or not, it is true that the situation of the world has changed, it is to take a different form. The view of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that Islamic countries must play their role in the new world structure with relation to their population. They can exert influence, considering the fact that they are present in the sensitive regions of the world and that an important part of the world's energy resources belong to the Islamic world.

Unfortunately, some Islamic countries viewed and view the issue is such a way that they regard this new world order as already formed, they imagine it to be a formed body. This is not the case. The Islamic Republic of Iran, at least, limited by its resources—that are not so few—has shown that during the past two or three years, that even one country can be effective in the formation of the world system. Around one-third of the world's countries are Islamic. This is our thinking. We started at the Istanbul session with the same thoughts and participated at the ICO [summit in Dakar].

The views of the Islamic Republic of Iran were reflected in the esteemed president's speech. To a certain extent, this view is represented in the summit documents. Considering the unanimous agreement of Islamic countries to our offer to host the eighth head of state [ICO] summit—naturally there are many volunteers to hold the head of state session...[changes thought] This shows the importance of the Islamic Republic in the world of Islam and in the new world situation. Many of our proposals were approved at the many committees and in the end, at the final session of the summit itself.

[Correspondent] Dr. Velayati, you know that a delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the Islamic conference. Iran spoke as the first supporter of the presence of [Soviet] Muslim republics at the Islamic conference. Previously, there was talk of the Republic of Azerbaijan's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO, current members are Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan]. I will be grateful for your remarks on this matter.

[Velayati] Not just from the Republic of Azerbaijan, but...[changes thought] ...from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the presidential adviser and the Sheykh ol-Eslam [as heard] were the delegates from Azerbaijan. From Kazakhstan, the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of that Republic participated. All the necessary facilities for the participation of these two delegations were provided by the Islamic Republic. In other words, the said two delegations accompanied me from my Soviet, or former Soviet, trip to Tehran. We went to Senegal together. All the preliminary work for their participation at the summit was carried out by the dispatched delegation of the Islamic Republic. At the end of the summit, they returned to Tehran with the Islamic Republic's delegation. They left for their countries from here.

In the committees and the general assembly [of the ICO], the Islamic Republic continued to be the leader, or one of the recognized supporters of the membership of those republics. This was based on what they wanted themselves. We acted on their wishes.

The Republic of Azerbaijan wanted full membership, we supported full membership. The Kazakhstan Republic wanted to be there as a guest, again, we respected their wish. Albania wanted to be there as an observer; we supported this.

Regarding the ECO, let me say that for the first time, Mr. Gasanov, the Azerbaijani prime minister who traveled to Tehran, talked to me about Azerbaijan's request to join the ECO. We looked at the issue with complete agreement. We passed on their request to the ECO office in Tehran. From the start, we were in agreement. However, due to legal procedures, the approval of membership requires its discussion at the head of state session [of the ECO]. It had been decided to hold the head of state session in Tehran at the beginning of Azar [Iranian month starting 22 November] in Tehran. Since there were elections in Turkey, the Turkish Government asked us, and the Pakistanis, to postpone the head of state session. Based on this request, the head of state session was postponed to late Bahman [month starting 21 January 1992] or early Esfand [month starting 20 February]. This has not been decided yet. The issue of Azerbaijan's membership will be raised there. We are the most ardent supporters of Azerbaijan's membership in ECO and will cast a positive vote.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, recently Yeltsin raised a comprehensive plan for a Commonwealth of Independent States. Can this Commonwealth be a starting point for the the cooperation of the [Soviet] republics?

[Velayati] This is one of the alternatives. And at the moment, three states have declared that they will join him. The same ones which formed the initial nucleus. [passage omitted] We are awaiting the results of the session [the Alma-Ata conference] on Saturday. But there is a general principle governing the plans and proposals so far, following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and that is these proposals have been destroyed in the embryonic stage. Until this one, the proposer was Mr. Gorbachev. The last one was proposed by Mr. Yeltsin. Maybe Mr. Yeltsin's power will be tested by this proposal.

[Correspondent] Will now, therefore, Mr. Yeltsin's Russia have the axial role? In other words, what role is Russia seeking in the international community?

[Velayati] As far as we have gathered from talks with Russian authorities or from information we have received, the Russian Federative Republic is after the revival of Russia. They also believe that, in the Soviet Union, Russia was a victim of tyranny. Now, the rest of the republics believe that they have been tyrannized and this is understandable. But when one hears that the Russians also claim to have been tyrannized and claim that during the almost 70 year rule of the Bolsheviks they have been duped, one asks oneself, after all, who was, or who were, or what was it that caused all the republics to be duped, a republic, or individual or a combination of those?

Anyhow, Mr. Yeltsin is claiming to have been duped on behalf of the Russian Federative Republic. The Russians are neither after returning to former stages, nor do they have the possibility of such reversal.

[Correspondent] We also heard that Mr. Yeltsin's deputy has come to Iran, and you have held talks with him as well. What conclusions did you come to?

[Velayati] That is true. We held lengthy, frank, and, according to him, constructive, talks today. I agree as well that they were useful talks.

One of the issues he raised was the Afghan issue. And another is the importance which Russia accords to her relationship. Another was planning some kind of regional cooperation between us and Russia and the other states in this region which have recently declared their independence, or intend to declare their independence. He pointed out that the fact that he has visited Iran first in his regional trip, and that he will go to other countries next, in itself shows the importance Russia accords her ties with Iran. He also said that the existing Soviet Embassy, or the former Soviet Union, is in fact the representative of the Russian Federation. Or, in other words, the embassy will enter talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Russian Federation as well, and whatever you have in mind—that is, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran—you can raise it with the former Soviet Embassy in Tehran. Also the commercial attache of the embassy can deal with the commercial tasks between you and us. All the agreements that we had with the former Soviet Union, he declared, the Russian Federative Republic commits itself to honor from now on, and he said that they are committed and stress the fulfillment of those agreements and that they even seek further expansion of ties between us and the Russian Federative Republic. Also, cooperation between us and the Russian Federative Republic.

[Correspondent] Europe has preferred the Soviet Union to remain a single country under central government control, a weakened Soviet Union. Considering the developments in the Soviet Union, that country is completely falling apart. Will Europe keep its policy or will it take a new position?

[Velayati] I think you should rephrase your question thus: Instead of Europe, you should say Western countries, since the positions of Western countries are similar. The European position, U.S. position, and Canadian position are all similar. The policy of the Western block is not as you say. That is, they do not want the Soviet Union to remain under the guiding and supporting umbrella of Moscow. They do not want another strong government in the place formerly called the Soviet Union. They have at least two different ways of dealing with those republics that declare their independence. It is clear that right from the start they had a hostile view of the birth of new Islamic countries and the declarations of independence from the Muslim Republics. They have not managed to hide their dislike and concern, even some of the most conservative Western countries. They openly announce their concern over the birth of new Muslim countries over the ashes of the Soviet Union. At the same time, they welcome the birth of new countries in the European region of the Soviet Union. This shows the reactionary thoughts of some of these gentlemen.

The other point is that the West is after propaganda gains in line with its interests. The issue of nuclear weapons, that has recently been raised by the Western media, is a very clever propaganda move. They want to form the republics that were formerly united under the Soviet Union to their liking. This is how the West deals with the former Soviet Union and the current formative situation.

[Correspondent] Finally, as my last question, I would like to ask what are (?our) views towards recognition of the republics?

[Velayati] From the beginning, our policy was based on two pillars. One was to respect the will of the people of those republics; the second, that we do not take advantage of the situation and become ourselves a further cause of increased tension and instability.

There were a number of countries that their policies contained some opportunistic elements, and hastiness. They would declare a policy; then they would see that

that policy bore no satisfactory results, then they would abandon the policy which had been adopted.

Fortunately the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted a sound policy from the beginning of developments which took place in the Soviet Union and is still continuing the same policy.

With regards to those developments and the speed of those developments, I should mention that we are gradually getting closer to the point where we can recognize some of the republics which have declared independence. Of course, we ourselves are waiting for the legal stages of independence to take place in those countries.

Some presidents of those republics have explicitly asked us, during political meetings, that we not show hastiness like other countries, and do not further complicate their task.

In reply to your previous question, I mentioned that if the representative [corrects himself] the official in charge of the republic of Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry, who was with us in Dakar [attending the ICO summit], would have requested the membership of independent Kazakhstan in the Islamic Conference, then we would have [words indistinct] supported it.

During my recent visit to those republics, those republics themselves requested that the Islamic Republic opens consulates in those republics. None of them requested the opening of an embassy which would officially indicate recognition of their complete independence. And on the other hand, they themselves also requested that they only open an office in Tehran. That itself is indicative of the point that those republics, or most of them, have not reached the final stages of decisionmaking.

But, we have no problem recognizing the republics that have passed those stages [of legal independence] and people have voted, or are ready to vote, for independence. But the legal stages should definitely be followed so that it becomes clear that that is what the people want.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, once again I thank you for your participation in the program.

[Velayati] Please. I also thank you.

RSFSR Envoy Departs Tehran Following Talks

LD1912183791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] RSFSR Vice President Mr. Rutskoy left Tehran for Karachi this evening. Mr. Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs, saw him off.

Before departure, Mr. Rutskoy spoke to our correspondent, terming the outcome of his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials as positive, and said: During the visit we discussed the issue of new agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After my return to Russia, we are going to review a number of the agreements which were previously reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Rutskoy said his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iran-based Mojahedin about the problem of Afghanistan were constructive.

In reply to a question on who would make the final decision on the problem of Afghanistan, he said: Mr. Yeltsin, together with the newly set up Commonwealth, would make the final decision on the problem of Afghanistan.

On differences which exist between a number of republics with regard to Soviet nuclear arms control, the Russian Federation's vice president said: The launching key for nuclear weapons is currently in Gorbachev's hands. But the Russian Republic has precise control over the issue, and the final decision about the control over those weapons will be made during the meeting in Alma-Ata on Saturday.

During the interview, on the possible Russian inability to overcome its economic problems, Mr. Rutskoy said: We have many friends, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, throughout the world. In case of not being able to solve economic problems, we will turn to them.

At the end of Aleksandr Rutskoy's visit to Tehran, a joint statement was issued. In the statement the two sides, expressing readiness to extend and develop all-embracing ties in political, economic, and cultural spheres, came to an understanding, to the effect that, considering recent developments in the Soviet Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federative Republic increase their ties and talks with the aim of expanding cooperation.

In the statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to open a consulate in St. Petersburg. Considering the principle of reciprocity, the Russian side agreed. The two sides, noting the long term and historic relations between the two countries, stressed the good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries and decided to sign documents in this regard.

Considering the need for cooperation between the two countries in international forums, the two sides stressed the need for further cooperation between the littoral states of the Caspian Sea. The two sides also called for effective bilateral participation and cooperation in order to create a stable and peaceful region, and the Russian side, stressing Iran's importance and role in the Persian Gulf region, stressed the need for the continuation of peace and stability in that region.

On the Afghan issue, the two sides, stressing the need for its peaceful resolution, agreed to continue their fruitful and constructive cooperation toward the settlement of the Afghan issue and ending this human tragedy, and

until the formation of an Islamic and nonaligned government which will spring from the votes of the majority of the people of that country.

Welcoming once again the UN secretary general's five point statement on Afghanistan, the two sides expressed complete satisfaction with the results of the recent talks held between the Afghan Mojahedin and the Russians in Moscow. Welcoming the agreement on stopping the arms shipments by involved parties to Afghanistan, the two sides consider this practical phase as an important stride toward peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Noting a Russian Federation request, the Islamic Republic of Iran also announced that, considering ethical and Islamic principles and its own humanitarian principles, and considering the efforts undertaken before, it will give effective assistance regarding the release of Russian POW's in Afghanistan. Iran stressed the effective and practical assistance by the Russian side toward the release of Afghan Mojahedin POW's. This was welcomed by the Russian side.

Commentary on Rutskoy's Visit

LD1912125291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The visit by the Russian vice president, Aleksandr Rutskoy, to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan aimed at finding a lasting peace in Afghanistan, is in fact a new attempt to end this crisis. [passage omitted]

The Russian vice president, who will leave Tehran for Pakistan, is due to attend the second round of talks between Moscow and the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin. The main topic of these talks will be the method of implementing the new agreement signed in Moscow between the mojahedin leaders and the Soviet authorities, particularly in connection with setting up a transitional government and releasing prisoners.

The first round of talks between the representatives of the Afghan mojahedin—residing in Peshawar and Tehran—with the Moscow authorities, which led to the acceptance of a joint statement, brought some hopes toward solving the Afghanistan problem. On the basis of this statement—in view of the need for full transfer of power in Afghanistan—the two sides reached agreement to set up a transitional Islamic government. However, political observers believe that if such ambiguities as ways of setting up such a government, its composition, and the method of sharing power were removed, the most practical final solution of the Afghan problem would be found.

There are some proposals on the composition of the government and division of authority which show some kind of coalition between three groups of power-seekers in the country, but the share of each group has not been defined. Also, the Afghan Muslim mojahedin groups, who are the most powerful and the most significant players in the country's political arena, have so far failed to put forward a united strategy in the political arena. If the Afghan Muslim mojahedin allow their own ethnic and religious divisions to undermine their role in the future shape of the Afghan government, this will lead to the strengthening of the two remaining groups, that is, the supporters of Zahir Shah and the Kabul regime, who demand a share in the power. Such a fate, in the opinion of political observers, would deprive Afghanistan of internal solidarity [as heard], and would reduce the hope of achieving stability and peace in the country.

Also of note is the fact that the Soviet Union is currently beset with rapid and unpredictable developments, and certainly these developments will influence the future course of events in Afghanistan. The situation, therefore, demands particular vigilance, and this fact should not be overlooked by the Afghan mojahedin. If the Afghan mojahedin utilize such factors as timely understanding of their national and Islamic interests, and if they avoid discord and selfish interests, they will be able to safeguard and bring to fruition their country's national interests.

Rafsanjani Speaks on Islamic Meeting, Iraq

LD2012121491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] At today's Friday prayer ceremony in Tehran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented a report about the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in the meeting of the leaders of Islamic countries, and also about his visit to Senegal and Sudan, saying: The Islamic revolution has found a place in the hearts of the people of Africa and they consider themselves to be followers of the imam [Khomeyni] and the leader of the revolution [Khamene'i].

The president referred to the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's high-ranking delegation in the conference of Islamic leaders, and said: While the conference was under the strong influence of efforts to foment an atmosphere of conflict, and also of the poisonous propaganda of arrogance and Zionism, the Islamic Republic of Iran entered the conference in a decisive manner and with strength deriving from the Islamic revolution, and, with its correct and principled program, stated the positions of the Islamic Republic and guided the conference in a direction which meant that the outcome and the final resolution of the conference gladdened the hearts of all Muslims.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to his speech at the conference, and said: The speech was given great attention and a good welcome from the delegations taking part in the Islamic conference, and they repeatedly told us that what we expressed were the thoughts and ideas of the world of Islam. The president added that the outcome of the successful participation of the Iranian delegation in the conference of Islamic leaders was the result

of the people's presence on the stage of the revolution, and said: In the course of the conference, friend and foe acknowledged that the spirit of the Islamic revolution governed the atmosphere of the conference.

He expressed satisfaction about the final resolution of the conference, and said that the resolution notes the rights of the Palestinians are strictly observed and deviant and humiliating movements which do away with the Palestinian's right of sovereignty are severely condemned.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued by speaking of the Islamic revolution's influence among Africa's masses and, referring to his visit to the town of (Tuba) in Senegal, and to Sudan, he said: The Islamic revolution has taken root in Africa and the people there are real devotees of the Islamic revolution. The president spoke of the amazing welcome given to him by the Muslim people of Sudan, and said: Sudan's people and officials spoke with pride of the fact that the Islamic revolution serves as an example and a model, and that they wish to benefit from its experiences.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to stress the need for the Islamic republic's presence in international organizations and in other countries, and said: We must prudently and wisely explain Islam, the Koran, and our experiences to the people of the world, and by performing our duty, we can serve as the leading light of the world of Islam.

Speaking about the recent political victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the identification of Iraq as the aggressor and as the party responsible for the imposed war, the president said: The fact that history has judged that Iran was not responsible for that war and destruction, and that the children of Islam and future generations will know that Iran was not responsible for any of the damage caused by the war, is of great value. Of course, the remaining matters must also be pursued.

The president expressed gratitude for the efforts of Foreign Ministry officials, and added: Although the clarification of Iran's innocence and the declaration of this fact by the U.N secretary general came late, nonetheless, in view of the circumstances of the world and of the influence of global arrogance, thanks must be expressed to the secretary general.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his sermons by describing the talks between Arab governments and the Zionist regime in Washington as humiliating. He once again condemned the talks, and said that they were to the disadvantage of Arabs and Muslims.

Tehran's Friday prayer leader then commemorated the eminent martyr Ayatollah Mofatteh and praised his valuable services to seminaries and universities. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also honored the memory of martyr Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, the former oil minister, and said: We regret that instead of welcoming him, we have been forced to receive the blessed body of this valuable martyr.

Pro-Imam Majles Deputy Prevented From Speaking

NC1912175391 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] In continuation of the violent clashes between the two factions in the regime, some time ago, some individuals affiliated with the Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction in Shiraz University prevented Majles Deputy Asgharzadeh, who belongs to the faction of the Imam's line, from delivering his speech and severely beat up the organizer of this program. [passage indistinct]

Pakistan

Russian, Soviet Central Asian Republics Recognized

BK2012102691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Pakistan has decided to grant diplomatic recognition to the Russian Federation and the five Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. This was announced by Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, while talking to newsmen in Lahore this afternoon.

Pakistan had earlier recognized Azerbaijan.

Akram Zaki said that Pakistan's prime minister has invited the heads of these seven republics to visit Pakistan. The dates of these visits will be mutually decided upon.

Russian Vice President Rutskoy Arrives 19 Dec

BK2012015091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation, arrived in Lahore last night on a three-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received by Punjab Governor Mian Mohammad Azhar and others at the airport.

Speaking to newsmen upon his arrival, the Russian vice president said that the Federation wants to improve bilateral relations with Pakistan and boost economic and cultural cooperation with it. In reply to a question, the vice president said that unfortunately relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union had earlier remained cold, but that this is a thing of the past. The Russian vice president will call on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif this morning.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK2012121291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] The vice president of Russian Federation, Mr. Aleksandr Rutskoy, had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Lahore today. They discussed wide range of bilateral and regional issues. Both sides expressed their keen desire to strengthen bilateral relations in political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological, and cultural fields.

The prime minister informed the vice president of Russian Federation that Pakistan has been watching with keen interest the peaceful and democratic transformation taking place in its greater northern neighbor. Pakistan admires the constructive and positive role played by the Russian Federation in this historic change.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif commended the role of Russian Federation in supporting Pakistan's efforts in finding a peaceful settlement of Afghanistan issue.

'Positive' Talks Held

BK2012142291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy said that he held constructive and positive talks with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on bilateral and regional issues. Speaking to newsmen at Lahore airport before leaving for Islamabad this evening, he said they are happy to learn of Pakistan's decision to recognize the Russian Federation. This will lead to the opening of new vistas of cooperation between the two countries. He said he hoped that the Afghan problem will be solved peacefully.

Upon his arrival in Islamabad, he welcomed Pakistan's recognition of his country.

President Addresses Parliament; Opposition Protests

BK1912174191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan emphasized the need to divert collective energies for nation-building activities according to constitutional and democratic norms and said these they should not be wasted on confrontation. Addressing the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad today on the occasion of the commencement of the new year of parliament, he said the task of nation-building is neither the responsibility of any party, nor can anyone accomplish it by himself. Every person who values the national interest more than his own interest should cooperate in this noble task. Describing the performance of the government as encouraging, he said that despite certain problems and shortcomings, a proper direction has been set and the overall situation is moving toward improvement.

Referring to the economic situation, he said that the government has brought the country back from crisis and has been carrying forward the program of economic reforms. The president said that despite the suspension of foreign aid, the Gulf war, and higher oil prices, the policies of the present government have begun yielding encouraging results. Pakistan's economic growth has been 5.6 percent, the highest in South Asia, whereas it was almost zero in the rest of the world. In this connection, he said that in the last six months exports increased 20 percent, $700 million in foreign exchange reserves were earned, direct foreign investment increased by 15 percent, and about $1 billion in letters of intent have been issued.

During this period local investors have also expedited the process of industrialization. The president lauded the government for revitalizing the common benefit council and national financial commission and for resolving extremely delicate and intricate issues with courage and confidence. He described as historic the achievements on signing agreements on water sharing and the distribution of profits from electricity generation, the granting of royalties for oil and gas, and the distribution of tax revenue. Expressing concern over increased inflation and unemployment, the president said that steps should be taken in the social welfare sector. He proposed the launching of programs under the auspices of Parliament to provide immediate benefits to the common man and to reduce his economic burden.

The president said that the volume of legislation passed by both the houses of Parliament is unprecedented. Fourteen out of 57 bills presented to them were adopted. The sharia bill is the foremost among them, and this paved the way for fulfilling the long-standing aspirations of the people to establish a new system in line with the Koran and the teachings of the holy prophet. The president urged the government to expedite the process of formulating the recommendations of the two commissions set up under this bill and to pass necessary legislation on it. The president urged Parliament to give immediate attention to the nefarious designs of changing party affiliations and to prepare legislation for the proper representation of women in Parliament.

As for the law and order situation, he said that the crime rate in the country has not yet come down and that reports of heinous crimes are coming in steadily despite the government's efforts to bring them down. There have been some positive results from the steps taken by the federal and provincial governments. Although the desired success has not been achieved in the drive to seize illegal weapons, the trend of openly carrying arms has been considerably reduced.

Referring to the trial courts set up to deliver verdicts more rapidly, he said that these will definitely help in controlling crime. The president said that communal violence has been wiped out in Sindh and that the situation in the cities has improved to a considerable extent. The situation in the rural areas, however, is still a matter of concern. The president said that the neglect of the people's electoral verdict has led to the violation of law, and that this is the basic mistake dragging Pakistan away from its goal. The president called upon political leaders to rise above partisan politics and to attach importance to the views of both sides on recognized national objectives and common principles.

Expressing his views on foreign policy, the president said that the government is making efforts to promote friendly relations with all countries but that it will

neither compromise the nation's dignity, honor, and stability under any circumstances, nor will it allow any harm to come to the country from such relations no matter how beneficial they appear at the time. The president said that Pakistan seeks a new international order based on the principles of equity, justice, and benevolence. He said we will continue meaningful talks with India for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue as it is not possible to normalize relations with India to the desired level.

On Afghanistan, he gave the assurance that Pakistan will continue its support to its Afghan brethren. He urged Afghan leaders to work together for a political settlement according to the aspirations of the people.

The president's address continued for more than an hour, during which time members frequently thumped their desks. As the president began his address, the opposition members led by Benazir Bhutto Sahiba stood on their chairs and started disrupting his speech. The opposition leader wanted to raise a point of order; this was rejected by the speaker. The speaker directed the opposition members to return to their seats to enable the president to continue his speech without any interruption. The opposition members continued their shouting, however. Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan said it was not the tradition of the house to interrupt speeches of the president, the leader of the house, or the opposition leader in the house, as this is against recognized parliamentary procedures. He reminded the opposition leader that he had followed the same principles in the past. Despite this, the opposition members did not agree to return to their seats. Later, the opposition members staged a walkout.

The workers of the opposition party demonstrated in front of the Parliament building in Islamabad today. When they demonstrated in a provocative manner and tried to enter the premises of Parliament, they were dispersed.

A press note issued in Islamabad says that at a meeting of local administrators, leaders of demonstrators, and organizers it was decided that they would go up to the saluting dais meant for the Pakistan Day parade. However, the agreement was violated, and the mob became enraged. The authorities showed extreme restraint, but a mild baton charge was ordered and tear gas was used to prevent the irate mob from entering the premises of Parliament. Seventeen policemen, a deputy superintendent of police, and an on-duty magistrate were injured in the incident.

Later, speaking to newsmen, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the aim of the irresponsible reaction of the opposition has been to divert attention from the references that have been filed against it.